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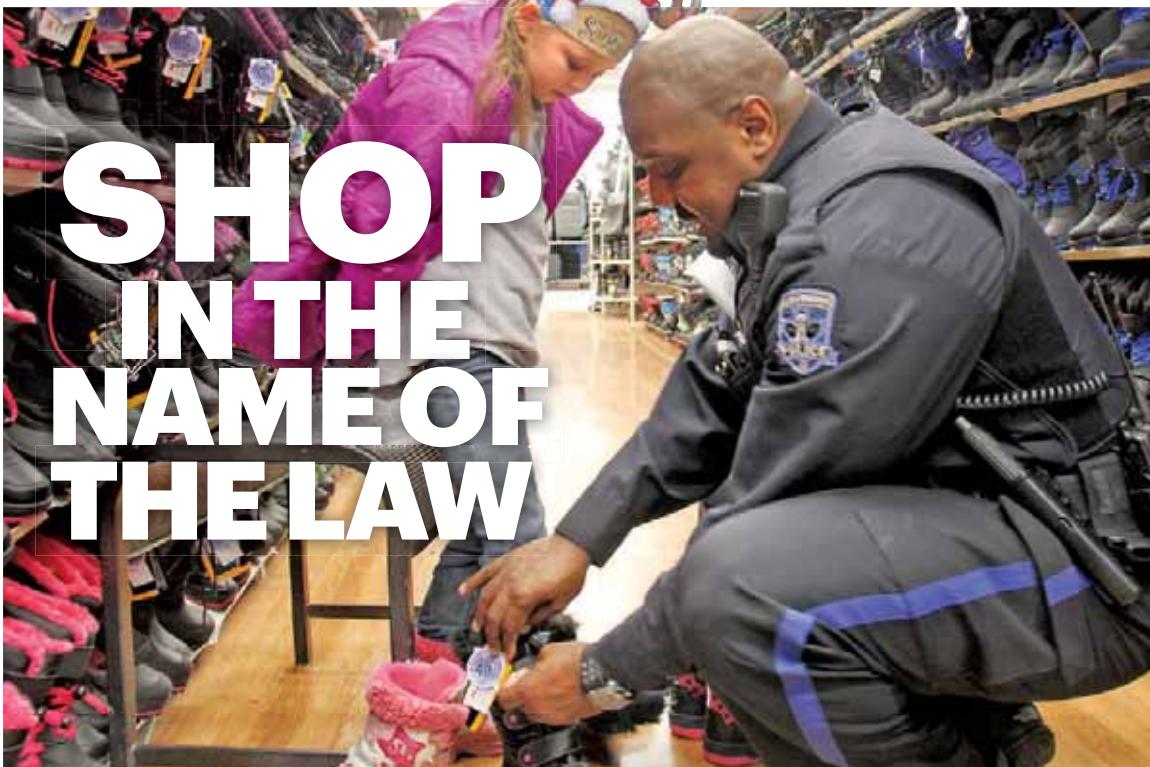
metroNEWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2015

High 6°C/Low 2°C Mainly cloudy



SHOP IN THE NAME OF THE LAW



Officer George Farmer helps eight-year-old Monica Clarke try on boots during the annual CopShop event. JULIA MANOUKIAN/FOR METRO

Halifax Regional Police go on duty as personal shoppers for 50 local children metroNEWS

Controversial cabbie back in the spotlight

STANDING COMMITTEE

Activist wants alleged sexual assaulter off the roads

 **Zane Woodford**
Metro | Halifax

A Halifax activist is calling on the city's appeals standing committee to reverse its decision of reinstating the licence of a taxi driver charged with sexual assault.

Amanda Halliday sent a letter to the committee in November asking it to revisit in a public forum its decision to allow Bassem Al-Rawi's appeal of the suspension of his taxi licence.

After a secret meeting in August, Al-Rawi's lawyer said the committee reinstated his

client's licence, with the conditions that he can't drive at night and that he has to have a camera in his car.

Halliday's letter is before the committee Thursday, and she hopes it will reconsider.

"They're not the court system," she said Wednesday. "I understand the concept of innocent 'till proven guilty, but we're not talking about simple thefts."

Halliday said she's taken a bureaucratic approach to activism in hopes of opening up a dialogue with the city.

"It just makes more sense to open up a verbal line of communication to try to understand ... why they made the decision they did," she said.

Ultimately, she hopes the committee will reverse its decision on Al-Rawi's appeal.

Al-Rawi was arrested May 23 and charged with sexual assault.



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5

TRANSIT TOPICS IN HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

The city is moving forward on key transit priorities, ranging from low-income passes to automated stop announcements and improved accessibility. Here's a look at the year ahead for Halifax Transit.



**Zane
Woodford**
Metro | Halifax



GETTY IMAGES

1 Ridership down, fares/budget up

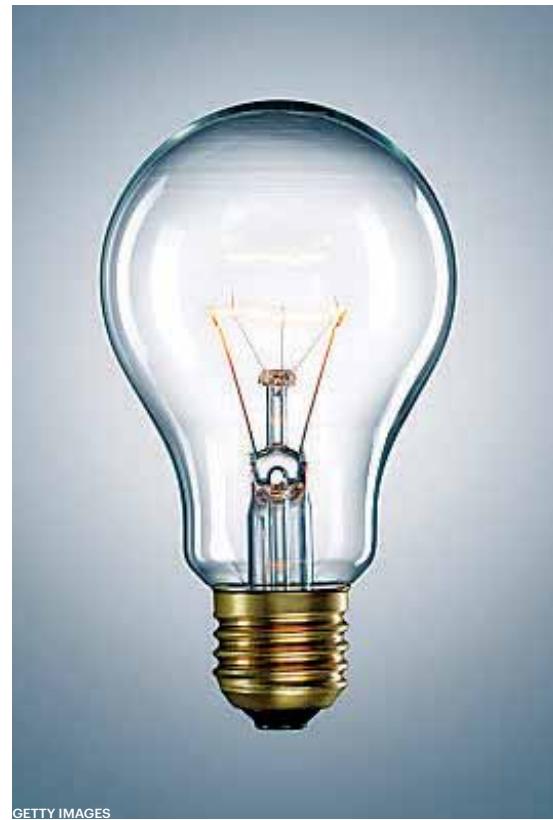
Halifax Transit's ridership is down, but its revenue — and its budget — are up. That's what Halifax Regional Municipality councillors heard at Wednesday's committee of the whole meeting on the transit authority's proposed 2016-17 budget. The proposed budget is up almost \$2 million, from \$112.5 million in the current fiscal year, to \$114.3 million. Ridership is down 1.47 per cent, but revenue from ridership is up just over two per cent. The committee approved the proposed 2016-17 budget.



STEVE JOHNSON
(FLICKR: ARTBYSTEVEJOHNSON)

2 Accessibility amendment

Transit services for those unable to use Halifax Transit's conventional buses could be expanding next year. At HRM's committee of the whole meeting on Wednesday, councillors voted to have staff add to the budget options for "expansion and increased flexibility" of door-to-door accessible transit. Coun. Steve Craig put the amendment forward, citing gaps in the existing Access-a-Bus service.



GETTY IMAGES

3 Electrified future

Halifax Transit is thinking well into the future when it comes to how its buses will be powered. At the city's committee of the whole meeting on Wednesday, transit director Eddie Robar was asked about compressed natural gas and electrification as methods of moving people in the city's buses.

"From a transit industry perspective, I think electrification is where everybody's going," Robar told the committee.

He said electric buses would be difficult to implement in a colder environment like Halifax, but he said Halifax Transit is already looking at ways to move in that direction.



METRO FILE

4 Subsidized low-income pass

After a wait of more than two years, subsidized bus passes for low-income Haligonians could be coming early in the New Year. At Wednesday's committee of the whole meeting on Halifax Transit's 2016 budget, transit director Eddie Robar told councillors a staff report on the matter would be coming near the end of January. The city's transportation standing committee first asked for a staff report on the bus passes in August 2013. Robar said the issue will be packaged in a report about fares, because a new bylaw needs to be enacted to make them possible. He said Halifax Transit is not worried about finding room in the budget for the passes.

5 Next stop: automation

Starting next year, an automated voice will tell you when your stop is coming up on Halifax Transit buses. It's one of the technology features coming to buses next year, along with GPS data that will allow app developers to determine when buses are late, or where they are en route. Transit director Eddie Robar said installation will begin in 2016, and will be installed in all buses by April 2017.



GETTY IMAGES

CITY HALL

Chief administrator resigns, accepts role at development firm

Halifax's now former chief administration officer says his new employer won't get any special treatment from the city with him in charge.

Richard Butts tabled his resignation to the city on Wednesday, and just minutes after the mayor's office sent out a release, another one went out from Halifax-based Clayton Developments Ltd. Butts is its new president.

"Having some relationships with people in the city, I don't think, gives me or Clayton any sort of advantage, other than the fact that our phone calls might get returned," Butts said Wednesday.

"And that we can work closely together on similar goals, because the people that work for Halifax and the people that work for Clayton have the same goals in mind: a great Halifax."

Butts will stay on with the city "in a transitional role" until Jan. 8, 2016. In the meantime, city solicitor John Traves will act as CAO.

"Top performers will always be attractive to organizations that want the best, and he's one of the best city managers in the country," Mayor Mike Savage said in the Halifax Regional Municipality news release.

Butts said the new gig has been in the works for about four weeks, but that he "was not out actively seeking a new job."

The city's top bureaucrat had been commuting back and forth to Ontario, but now, he said his wife will be moving here to Halifax.

"That was one of the attractive things about this job, was the ability to stay in Halifax,"

he said.

"There's a sort of symmetry to this that's kind to attractive to me."

Clayton Developments is one of the city's oldest and largest development companies, and is currently involved in the \$500-million dollar Parks of West Bedford project.

Butts will start as the company's president on Jan. 11, 2016. ZANE WOODFORD/METRO



Richard Butts JEFF HARPER/METRO

Taavel family gets apology

PROVINCE HOUSE

Health minister says gaps in the system have been fixed

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

The provincial health minister says thanks to changes that came about after Raymond Taavel's death, the loss of his life will not be in vain.

Minister Leo Glavine stood to deliver the official apology on behalf of the government to the family and friends of Taavel in Province House on Wednesday.

"His death will not be in vain. We are determined to ensure that positive change comes from this terrible tragedy," Glavine said in the statement.

Taavel, a well-known gay rights activist in Halifax, was beaten to death on Gottingen Street on April 17, 2012.

Andre Denny, a patient at the East Coast Forensic Hospital diagnosed with schizophrenia, was



Health Minister Leo Glavine delivers an apology to Raymond Taavel's family and friends in Province House Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

charged with second-degree murder but pleaded guilty to manslaughter last month.

Taavel's partner, Darren Lewis, stood in the legislature to acknowledge the apology as the politicians clapped.

Lewis told Metro on Tuesday the apology felt like a "big step" for the government to admit that something was wrong.

Glavine told reporters a review into the East Coast Forensic Hospital came up with 18 recommendations to address gaps and problems with the system, all of which have been implemented over the past two years.

Some include better patient assessments on who should be given leave passes, Glavine said, as well as extensive staff training

and having a more rigorous screening process before anybody is allowed to leave.

There are also better procedures patients have to follow when they leave the institution, including following an itinerary and better reporting of their whereabouts, Glavine said.

"Certainly it's a much improved system over where we

\$40,000

The rough cost of making changes at East Coast Forensic Hospital.

were," Glavine said.

Marc Dunning, lawyer for the Taavel family, told reporters the apology is important for their sense of closure and means they don't need to proceed with a legal battle.

"There were a lot of problems identified with the way that patients were handled in terms of day leaves," Dunning said about the medical review.

"A number of recommendations were made ... and the family is very proud that that has happened."

Premier Stephen McNeil told reporters the Taavel case is a reminder for government to regularly keep an eye on procedures and review them annually.

"As opposed to waiting to end up in this situation where we're doing them with such heavy hearts, and in difficult circumstances for families," McNeil said.

ASSAULT

Court defers bar worker's case

Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

A man accused of aggravated sexual assault who was allowed to keep his job at a downtown Halifax bar has had his case adjourned until the new year.

Lance Paul Seward faces multiple counts of four charges, including aggravated sexual assault.

Seward's lawyer, Ian Hutchinson, appeared in Halifax provincial court on his behalf Wednesday and asked that the matter be put over while the Crown reviews some new "investigative material" he had provided.

Seward's election and plea were put off until Jan. 7, 2016.

In September, Metro reported Seward was allowed to keep his job as bar manager at the Bitter End.

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SHOPPERS
DRUG MART



Planners craft design principles

FORMER ST. PAT'S SITE

Open house gets city, public thinking



The future of 6067 Quinpool Rd. is becoming clearer.

On Wednesday night, about 70 Halifax-area residents sat in on a presentation about proposed land use bylaws that would impact the former St. Patrick's High School site in central Halifax. "We wanted to inform the public that we listened at Open House 1 and we've crafted regulations that we believe protect the things they care about most," Jacob Ritchie, Halifax Regional Municipality's manager of urban

COMMENTS

Residents can provide comments online until Jan. 6, when this round of consultation will end.

design, told residents.

The first open house regarding the property took place in July and received over 500 comments online. After going

through the comments, planners came up with six design principles: open space, connectivity, variety of real estate, neighbourhood character, creativity and design, and human scale. One proposed regulation is a "build-to" line. In other words, the city would only allow buildings in the first 25 metres of the site. This leaves room for a landscaped open space in the middle.

This property has provid-

ed the first opportunity for residents to have a say in the outcome of a site this early in the game.

Jennifer Watts, municipal councillor for the Peninsula North, thinks public participation in the bylaws is a good idea. "This is very different than how we've approached these kinds of sales before," Watts said after the presentation. "I think, actually, it's kind of exciting."



St. Patrick's High School site under demolition.

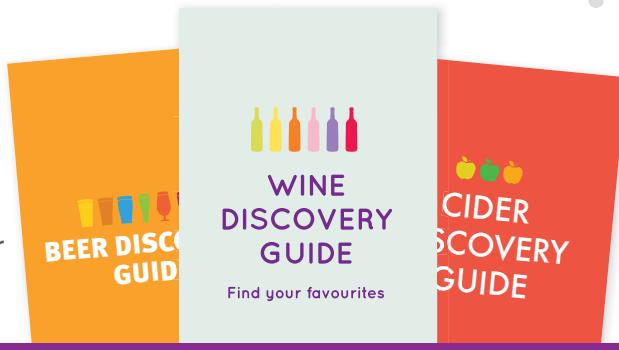
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LIBRARIES

Cities taking note of Halifax Central

Libraries can conjure up images of dim, musty spaces and stern librarians with index fingers pressed to their lip.

But the Halifax Central Library, with its cafés, auditorium space and video-gaming section, challenges every traditional notion of what these public spaces should be. Here, patrons are encouraged to hang out, snack and yes, even talk.

Library CEO Asa Kachan says the sleek downtown structure, which celebrates its first anniversary Dec. 13, has set the tone for a new generation of progressive libraries and other cities are taking notice.

By all accounts, the excitement hasn't worn off in the past 12 months. The old Spring Garden Road Memorial Public Library averaged 400,000 visits a year. Kachan says the latest count for the new library is around 1.9 million.

"We have the traditional role, which is to bring information and inspiration to people through literature," says Kachan, Halifax Central's chief librarian. "But more and more, libraries are also saying, 'How do we spur creativity in different ways?'"

In Halifax, that means space to record a podcast, play a board game or stumble upon a group of breakdancers — for free.

The public library board in

CUTTING-EDGE

- The \$57.6-million, 129,000-sq. ft. Halifax Central Library is bright, airy and open with a five-storey atrium. Its design is meant to suggest a stack of books with a cantilevered glass rectangle on the top floor that offers views of both Citadel Hill and the harbour.
- CNN named the library one of its "10 eye-popping new buildings of 2014," and Canadian architecture magazine Azure recognized it as a project to watch in 2014.

Ottawa is taking a cue from Halifax and working with citizens to design an exciting replacement for the aging central library on Metcalfe Street.

Board chairman Tim Tierney says that during public consultations, it became clear people expect libraries to do more than just lend books. Among the more interesting suggestions put forth? A library with a laundromat, says Tierney.

"We've seen the huge success in Vancouver and Halifax. That has set the new standard for libraries," says Tierney, a city councillor since 2010.

MELANIE PATTEN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



The Halifax Central Library JEFF HARPER/METRO



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BACKSTAGE PASS

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**Aly
Thomson**
For Metro | Halifax

Eight-bit bleeps and bloopers sing out from roughly a dozen flashing arcade games in David Johnston's basement as he walks towards a shelf dedicated to Star Wars paraphernalia.

"These are all original, under-the-Christmas-tree toys from back in the day," said Johnston, holding up a 35-year-old model of the Millennium Falcon, its cockpit door falling off.

Johnston is one of many local Star Wars superfans readying for the release of Star Wars: The Force Awakens, which hits theatres in just over a week.

He's been a Star Wars fan for most of his life, dressing up for movie premieres and saving his broken lightsabres from decades of duelling.

Johnston, a 42-year-old magician and entertainer, has travelled across North America to meet the stars of the movies.

He presented Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia) with balloon-hair buns and had Kenny Baker (R2-D2) sign a telephone shaped like the brave astromech droid.

For Johnston, Star Wars is timeless, with a moral that's more prevalent at this time of year: redemption through love.



David Johnston reads the first Star Wars comic book in his North River home on Tuesday. Star Wars fans across the region are gearing up for Star Wars: The Force Awakens, which hits theatres Dec. 18. ALY THOMSON / FOR METRO

tiny toys, board games, records, 8-tracks and CDs.

Down a narrow corridor and past some storage are thousands of comic books piled high in white boxes from floor to ceiling, labelled and grouped by publisher for easy searchability.

The lot includes every single Star Wars comic, somewhere close to 1,000 editions, said Johnston.

"That moment when Vader turns, and he realizes the evil he had done, but through love, he is redeemed. No matter what you've done, love is still more powerful than all the hate. That is so timeless."

Johnston's home in North River is a pop culture time capsule. Bulky arcade games like Tron, Pacman and Mario Bros. line the walls of the basement next to shelves of

Johnston, also known as The Amazing Mr. J, will be taking his parents to the premiere of Star Wars: The Force Awakens as a thank-you for introducing him to the fantasy films more than three decades ago.

"They took me to all the movies as a child and my mom consoled me at eight years old, when I couldn't fathom Darth Vader being Luke's father," said Johnston with a boisterous laugh.

"The new movie, great. But the camaraderie of seeing the new movie with friends and family is what I'm most excited about."



SHOUT! LET IT ALL OUT

Members of Neptune's Youth Performance Company will be showcasing their vocal chops in Shout! beginning Thursday at Scotiabank Studio Theatre.

The show is an a cappella musical directed and choreographed by Alexis Milligan.

JEFF HARPER / METRO

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REPORT

Gas shortage should serve as a wake-up call, panellists say

An independent panel says a gasoline shortage in Nova Scotia in late August did not become an emergency, but should serve as a wake-up call to government and the industry.

The report by Doug Keefe and Alphonse MacNeil says the three-day gas shortage was caused when a tanker was late with a delivery to Imperial Oil's ter-

minal in Dartmouth, N.S.

The panellists say the problem was compounded when the fuel on that ship and on a second vessel required additives that had to be brought in before the gasoline could be shipped to retailers.

They say communication between Imperial Oil and the provincial government was poor

and that prevented proper emergency planning over the course of the 73-hour shortage.

The report makes 21 recommendations, including a call for marine terminal operators to have additives on site.

It says a true emergency was avoided because most emergency vehicles rely on diesels and not gasoline. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FISH FARMS

Ecology Action Centre calls for continued moratorium

An environmental group says Nova Scotia's new aquaculture rules are "far below expectations" after releasing an analysis Wednesday of the regulations affecting fish farms.

The Ecology Action Centre, based in Halifax, wants a moratorium on new fish farms to continue until the regulations are improved.

The organization says its review of the regulations finds they fall short of the recommendations in a 2014 report prepared by Dalhousie University legal experts Meinhard Doelle and Bill Lahey on the \$60-million industry.

"We've concluded that the new regulations omit critical aspects of the Doelle-Lahey report's recommendations and frankly, falls far below expectations of regulatory excellence," said Susanna Fuller, marine co-ordinator for the Ecology Action Centre, in a statement.

In October, Nova Scotia's Liberal government released

new rules for fish farms and created an agency to regulate the approval of new licences.

The rules create an independent Aquaculture Review Board and also provide the industry with a fresh set of regulations to follow when they expand or transfer ownership.

Our entire coastline is ... wide open to industrial scale fish farms.

Raymond Plourde

The new regulations also introduce mandatory reporting of any fish diseases.

The Ecology Action Centre says one of the most important parts of the Doelle-Lahey report was to establish zones where aquaculture could and couldn't exist, but the government's new rules are limited

in addressing those recommendations.

Wild salmon rivers and environmentally sensitive areas should be off limits or labelled as "red zones," the report says.

"This is completely missing from the new government regulations and instead the power is given to the minister to designate large areas of our coast as approved 'Aquaculture Development Areas' — basically creating green zones but there are no corresponding red or no-go zones," said Fuller.

The group also says the new regulations set no clear parameters or minimum standards when determining where fish farms can be located.

"There are no such protections for these important values in the new government regulations," said Raymond Plourde, wilderness co-ordinator with the Ecology Action Centre.

"Our entire coastline is still wide open to industrial scale fish farms." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Monica Clarke, right, poses with Santa Claus in the Halifax Shopping Centre on Wednesday.

JULIA MANOUKIAN/FOR METRO

Police help gift seasonal cheer

GIVING BACK

Officers pair up with kids for annual holiday event

Julia Manoukian
For Metro | Halifax

Like most eight-year-old girls, Monica Clarke loves to shop. This year, she lucked out. She was granted a personal shopper.

The 11th annual CopShop at the Halifax Shopping Centre on Wednesday saw 50 Halifax Regional Police officers become personal shoppers for 50 local children.

"It's absolutely wonderful,

just working with the kids again and seeing them smile," said George Farmer, Clarke's shopping partner for the day.

Farmer, a member of the Halifax Regional Police, has been involved in CopShop since September 2006.

He said he's one of the first officers to sign up every year.

"It's a good way to let the kids know police officers are human. We know how to have fun too."

Farmer said for the kids, being selected by teachers for the event is like winning the lottery. Aside from the obvious — missing a day of school — personal shoppers help kids track down items on their wish list, which they pay for with a \$200 gift card.

Last year, organizers introduced an incentive called Pay

ItForward, as a way to give back to the community. Shopping teams receive \$10 gift cards they used to buy toys for other children. The toys are then gathered and given to the Salvation Army.

"Today you'll see a lot of happy kids and happy police officers," said Stephanie Schnare of the Halifax Shopping Centre, who's been co-ordinating the event for the past six years.

Happiness, indeed, was Clarke's reaction to a shopping cart full of toys: a Monster High doll, glittery makeup, tons of Play-Doh and a bright pink new winter coat.

But Clarke is a smart consumer. She's got the right idea about the holidays.

Her favourite part?
"My family."

IN BRIEF

Police and rescue workers locate two stranded hikers

Halifax police and search and rescue workers tracked down two stranded hikers late Tuesday night.

Police received a call at about 4:30 p.m. from a 53-year-old man and 51-year-old woman, who had been trekking the Crow Bar Lake trail system between Porters Lake and Lake Echo.

RCMP, a police dog and Halifax Regional Search and Rescue members found the two hikers from Dartmouth about 10 kilometres into the woods. They were recovered at around 10:30 p.m., and did not require medical attention. KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

Student arrested for online threats to high school

Nova Scotia police arrested a 15-year-old boy Wednesday after Central Kings Rural High School received online threats of violence.

Kings County RCMP said they received reports of a social media post suggesting violence toward the school and students at about 6 a.m. on Dec. 9.

RCMP informed school officials of the threat and they initiated a lockdown procedure.

The boy, a Central Kings student, was arrested at his Somerset home, and taken into custody for questioning. KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

Man and woman face drugs and weapons charges

Two Nova Scotians face several drug and weapons charges after police searched a Bear River residence.

Digby RCMP seized marijuana, marijuana resin, marijuana growing equipment, illegal and unstamped tobacco, an unsecured firearm and cash while conducting their Dec. 7 search inside the Reservation Road home.

A 50-year-old woman and 38-year-old man are charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking, marijuana production, illegal tobacco possession and unsafe storage of a firearm. KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO



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POLITICS

Promised tax cuts are on their way



Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

The Liberal government is forging ahead with its plan to raise taxes on the rich and cut taxes for middle-income earners — despite the fiscal impact on federal coffers.

The Liberal campaign platform said the tax changes would be revenue neutral, but the government admitted this week that they won't be; they will cost the federal treasury \$1.2 billion annually.

Asked about the \$1.2 billion gap on Wednesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters there were different analyses during the campaign

of how much the measures were going to cost and bring in.

The Liberals promised to raise taxes from 29 per cent to 33 per cent on incomes more than \$200,000, and lower the tax rate from 22 per cent to 20.5 per cent on incomes between \$44,000 and \$89,000.

"That is what we are doing, and that is what we're committed to doing," Trudeau said. "It's not just good for middle-class Canadians to get more money in their pockets every paycheque, it's also good for fighting against the income inequality that continues to be a problem for growth in Canada."

A ways and means motion detailing the changes passed in the House of Commons 230-95 on Wednesday.

Trudeau TRACKER

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Immigration Minister John McCallum speaks about Canada's plan to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Syrian refugees to begin arriving

IMMIGRATION

'It will be a great day,' Trudeau says

of the day" award today at the COP21 climate summit, citing the reluctance of Canadian negotiators to have compensation for weather destruction in poor countries included in the final Paris agreement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec's assisted dying law comes into effect

Quebec's health minister says legislation on assisted dying will become law on Thursday after a court ruling Wednesday afternoon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

About 300 Syrians are expected to arrive in Canada by Saturday as the long-awaited, first flights under the Liberal plan to resettle thousands of refugees from the war-torn region finally touch down.

The first aircraft is scheduled to land Thursday evening in Toronto, with a second flight arriving Saturday in Montreal, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told the House of Commons during question period.

"Resetting refugees demonstrates our commitment to

Canadians and to the world that Canada understands that we can and must do more," he said.

"It will be a great day."

While just over 400 refugees have arrived since the new government was sworn in on Nov. 4, Thursday marks the start of a program that's been weeks in the making, as officials in Canada and overseas have scrambled to help the Liberals meet a campaign promise to resettle 25,000 people.

Initially, the promise was to bring all of them in by year's end, but the government was forced to spread the commitment over a longer time period because of the logistics.

The first group of refugees will fly to Canada on military planes, but the government says

the rest of the flights scheduled for December are likely to be privately chartered aircraft.

The first 300 arrivals are among 10,000 privately sponsored refugees the government is seeking to welcome by Dec. 31.

Those with sponsors in the Toronto or Montreal areas will be told where and when to meet their new hosts, while those destined for other communities across Canada will stay overnight in their arrival cities before moving on the next day.

By the end of February, the government is itself hoping to resettle 15,000 refugees, to be initially spread among 36 different cities where agencies have agreements for resettlement services.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Opportunity to succeed

Haidah Amirzadeh was seven months pregnant and couldn't speak English when she arrived as a refugee in Saskatoon in 1989. Zahra Darzi fled Iran with her two daughters after her husband was executed. She claimed refugee status once she arrived in Regina in 1991.

Amirzadeh is now a lawyer specializing in immigration and refugee law who teaches at the University of Saskatchewan. Darzi is an engineer working at Saskatchewan's telephone utility.

Both say they came to Canada looking for an opportunity to succeed and both seized it. As Canada prepares to bring in thousands of Syrian refugees, the women say they want to remind people that, while many will come with little, it won't take long for them to get on their feet.

"Nobody really wants to be a burden," says Amirzadeh.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Duffy: Colleague told him expense claims OK

On his second day of testimony, Sen. Mike Duffy said a senior Conservative colleague told him to file expense claims indicating he lived primarily in P.E.I. in order to insulate himself from criticism he wasn't qualified to represent the province.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada criticized in Paris

The Climate Action Network International awarded Canada a second place "fossil

fuel" award today at the COP21 climate summit, citing the reluctance of Canadian negotiators to have compensation for weather destruction in poor countries included in the final Paris agreement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec's assisted dying law comes into effect

Quebec's health minister says legislation on assisted dying will become law on Thursday after a court ruling Wednesday afternoon.

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Firearms by the numbers

UNITED STATES

Seven key facts about guns in America

Another U.S. mass shooting committed with powerful but legal guns. Another refusal by Congress to pass any new gun laws.

Americans' fixation with firearms is an easy target for world condemnation. Some of it, though, is based on myths, outdated information and flawed assumptions about the actual state of affairs. Here are a few surprising statistics.

1 Gun crime is way down.

High-profile mass shootings make America seem like a place where gun crime is spiralling out of control. In fact, gun crime is much less common there now than it was in the 1990s. Since 1993, the gun homicide rate has been cut in half, from seven per 100,000 people to 3.6 per 100,000, and the rate of non-deadly gun crime has dropped even more steeply.



This photo shows weapons carried by suspects at the scene of a shootout in San Bernardino, Calif. HANDOUT/SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 Gun ownership is at an all-time low.

Fewer U.S. households possessed guns last year than at any time in the last 40 years: 32 per cent, according to the General Social Survey. It appears that people who already owned a gun have been stocking up on more.

3 There's strong support for gun restrictions.

Many Americans are highly supportive of specific gun-control proposals. In a Pew poll this summer, large majorities favoured mandatory background checks for people buying guns at gun shows (85 per cent), laws to prevent people with mental illnesses from buying guns (79 per cent), and a federal database to track gun sales (70 per cent).

4 Some politicians are taking action.

When Congress refuses to do anything about guns even in the wake of mass shootings, it is easy to believe the entire American political system is doing nothing. That's not true: After the 2012 attack on a Colorado movie theatre, the state banned high-capacity magazines. Within two years of the 2012 Sandy Hook school

shooting, five states had expanded background checks.

5 America is still off the charts.

The U.S. continues to have a far higher gun homicide rate than any other wealthy industrialized country. According to one study, the U.S. gun homicide rate was 20 times higher in 2003 than the combined rate of 22 other major nations. The U.S. was responsible for a remarkable 80 per cent of all gun deaths in all of the 23 countries combined.

6 The biggest gun problem is suicide.

Suicides get far less attention than homicides, but they account for about 60 per cent of U.S. gun deaths — and rising.

7 African-Americans are the primary victims.

African-Americans, and especially African-American men, are far more likely to be the victims of gun crime than anyone else. In 2010, for example, blacks were seven times more likely than whites to be killed in a gun homicide.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SAN BERNARDINO

Police, FBI still in dark

By the time the married couple who carried out the deadly San Bernardino, Calif., mass shooting came to the attention of police, it was far too late.

The FBI's acknowledgement that the shooters had been radicalized Muslims for "quite some time" points to the difficulty in discovering potential terrorists who keep a very low profile and shows the deadly consequences that can occur when identification comes too late.

"What this situation shows is (identification) is not a foolproof system. A hundred per cent prevention is not achievable," said David Schanzer, a Duke University public policy professor who runs a centre that studies terrorism. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



It appears these people were very good at hiding their intentions.

Prof. David Schanzer

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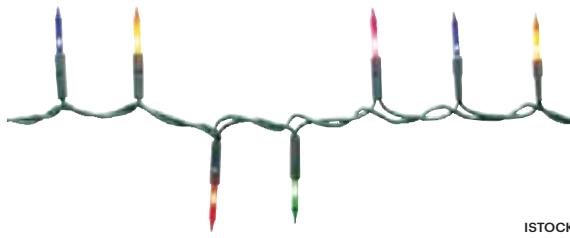
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LAWSUIT

Canadian Tire sues Walmart over lights



ISTOCK

Canadian Tire is accusing Walmart of ripping off the design of its made-in-Canada clip-on Christmas lights and is demanding that the mega-retailer cease and desist.

A Federal Court claim filed by Canadian Tire alleges that Walmart worked with two Taiwanese companies to copy the construction and packaging of its Noma Quick-Clip lights.

It wants Walmart to stop selling the "unique" product due to copyright infringement, and is seeking \$500,000 in punitive damages. Walmart has yet to file a statement of defence.

Earlier this week, Canadian Tire issued an unrelated safety warning to customers who pur-

chased Christmas lights from its Holiday Collection line. It says some of the products may pose a fire and shock hazard.

Canadian Tire is recalling 12 products made by Taizhou Hongpeng Colour Lanterns that were sold between Aug. 1, 2015, and Nov. 30, 2015, Canadian Tire said.

Health Canada has previously issued warnings this year about hazards with seasonal lights that were sold at Walmart, Dollarama, The Michaels Companies, Loblaw Companies Inc., Shoppers Drug Mart and Pharmaprix. Affected brands include Life at Home, Magi Decor, Celebrate It and Danson Decor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

UberEats expands service

Uber is quadrupling the operating hours of its UberEats delivery service in Toronto and rolling out a wider menu selection from 100 restaurants. Uber's existing service, now called Instant Delivery, delivers a short list of food items in less than 10 minutes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RETAIL

Discount chain says \$1.25 is the new \$1 — with cap rising to \$4

Dollarama confirmed Wednesday what a lot of its customers already know: that the majority of items in the stores are priced above \$1.25.

So the Montreal-based discount retailer — where everything originally sold for a loonie or even less when it was founded more than 20 years ago — said it will start to use \$1.25 rather than a dollar as its new reference point when reporting sales and financial results.

And while its current maximum price point is \$3, Dollarama will also introduce even higher-priced items of \$3.50 and \$4 starting in the second half of next year, chief executive Larry Rossy told analysts on a conference call.

He said many products at its 1,005 stores across Canada are still priced at a buck, but the \$1.25 metric is "a better representation of our price point range."

For the three months ending Nov. 1, 59.7 per cent of sales came from prices above \$1.25, compared with 54.1 per cent during the same period a year ago.



Montreal-based Dollarama says its higher-priced items are intended to help it adjust to the impact of the weakening Canadian dollar. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The company said the higher-priced items are intended to help it adjust to the impact of the weakening Canadian dollar.

Dollarama started increasing its prices beyond \$1 about six years ago, and then introduced the \$2.50 and \$3 items in 2012.

A spokesperson said the new \$1.25 base price point is "totally unconnected to anything happening in stores," and that items without price stickers will remain \$1 as usual.

Ken Wong, marketing professor at the Smith School of



History has a funny way of repeating itself.

Ken Wong

just swallowed up by Kresge's and Woolco, then K-Mart and Walmart.

"History has a funny way of repeating itself. No matter what business you're in, your prices can only be as low as your costs," said Wong.

Meanwhile the company — whose green and yellow signage already contains the word 'plus' beside the \$1 logo to reflect higher prices — will try to stick to its cap on grocery items of \$2, Rossy said.

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the big number

14

Is the number of charges laid this year in Nova Scotia for the dangerous offence of firing a gun near or across a highway. That's just a sample of the statistics revealed in documents that Nova Scotia Environment released this week after a Freedom of Information request. In the past four years, the department has laid 1,500 charges and given 2,077 warnings for hunting infractions such as transporting a loaded gun in a vehicle. The province employs just 54 conservation officers to police the 45,000 to 55,000 hunters who try their luck in Nova Scotia each fall and winter. With so few boots on the ground — or in the woods — it's hard to know how much misconduct goes unreported, said Ian Avery, president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters. He added that just about every hunter knows someone who litters, poaches out of season or takes more wild game than permitted. Yet very few speak up. That won't change, he explained, until something is done about the culture of complacency that (metaphorically) strings up and guts hunters who tattle on their neighbours. SOURCE: CBC

It's simple: Let buses jump the traffic queue

YOUR RIDE

Erica Butler



I don't usually commute across the harbour by car, but the other day I found myself joining the long, slow crawl of cars across the Macdonald Bridge for evening rush hour.

Just as I was starting to feel anxious about the delay, I noticed that a few cars

I'm no great altruist, but basic math tells me a bus full of 40 people should have priority in a sea of single-occupancy vehicles.

over, also stuck in the multitude of vehicles vying for the one Halifax-bound lane, was a city bus, chock-a-block full of people.

Now, I'm no great altruist, and I certainly don't clamour to add time to my bridge crossing, but basic math tells me that a bus full of 40 people should have priority amongst a sea of single-occupant vehicles.

With a dedicated toll lane for transit, that bus could have jumped past me and the other cars awaiting our turn to go bumpy-bump over the Macdonald.

But the bridge is not the only place where transit needs traffic priority: Our entire system will continue to be late and unreliable unless buses can beat traffic.

We can redesign bus routes to our heart's content, but they will never completely avoid rush hour traf-

fic. We can invest our money in increased frequency, but a bus can only run every 10 minutes if it's not stuck in rush-hour traffic.

To beat that traffic, we need transit priority measures: Queue-jump lanes or special signals that will let buses get through traffic pinch points ahead of everyone else.

Last year about this time, the city hired consultants to come up with a well-substantiated plan to strategically add transit queue-jumping facilities and other priority measures within the roadway network."

That study, which I was told by city officials to expect in July, is still not released. A report was delivered in September, but council has yet to set eyes on it, because city staff have sent it back to the consultants for revisions. The earli-

est we will see it now is late January 2016.

Meanwhile, capital budgets are being allocated, the transit network is being redrawn, and the road network functional plan is being prepared to go to public consultations (also months behind schedule).

There are seven intersections for transit priority measures suggested by city staff, which were included in the request for the study last fall.

City staff seem to be moving in the right direction with transit priority, but at an unacceptably slow pace.

It's basic math: Buses need priority in traffic. Let's get it done, already.

Erica Butler lives in Halifax and uses transit, a car and a bicycle to get around the city. You can follow her on Twitter at @HabitatRadio.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview



Don't be PC. Say it: Donald Trump supporters are racist.

Donald J. Trump is right about one thing. We're far too politically correct.

So politically correct, in fact, that we can't even admit his followers are racist.

We're happy to heap scorn on the man himself. See how much of the world united to denounce his call to ban Muslims from entering the U.S. Witness Vancouver and Toronto seek to rebrand his real estate properties, lest a bigot's name be found in their skyline. Watch the Daily Show dub him "White ISIS" or WISIS.

But when it comes to Trump's devotees, we take a much different tack.

Pundits are hand-wringing trying to explain his continued lead in the Republican nomination polls, and seem to take comfort in the fact that more Republicans don't support Trump than do. Reporters covering his rallies noted this week that Trump seems to beguile his supporters with humour and flattery. Psychologists are positing Trump's fans are swayed mostly by his defiant stance.

But few are blaming Trump's supporters for their culpability in spreading anti-Muslim, anti-Mexican and anti-Chinese vitriol. And even fewer are explaining his popularity by calling a spade a racist.

Conservatives, of course, don't want to alienate their own, especially when they're courting votes.

Liberals have no excuse. Except possibly the fear of backlash, and I'll admit to being worried myself. I like the various explanations offered for Trump's popularity, because they make me feel better about my fellow humans.

If they're not hate-filled, it's easier to keep up my whole humanistic world view, never mind my Catholic one. We're supposed to be accepting of all. We also tend to believe people hold different opinions only because we haven't quite got to them yet.

I might, if I met them in a coffee shop, like a Donald Trump supporter without knowing they were one, and I wouldn't want to piss off my new brew buddy.

But the stakes, in the case of Trump's rally-goers, are far too high for all that.

Anti-Muslim sentiment is rising. And it doesn't need a boost from the most widely covered politician in the U.S., if not the world.

So let's be honest: Anti-Muslim sentiment is only getting that boost because Trump's disciples are racist.

Not confused. Not afraid. Not manipulated by flattery. Racist.

I think it's very, very sad, yet important, and probably not politically correct, but I don't care, eh Trump? Otherwise, it's going to get worse and worse, folks. We have no choice. So, Donald, how's that for politically incorrect?

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

It's that time of year when books critics sort through the piles on their desks in search of the best of the best. While you can't go wrong with any of the titles on this year's Scotiabank Giller Prize shortlist — especially Andre Alexis' *Fifteen Dogs*, which took the award — plenty of other Canadian 2015 releases are worth picking up as a present, or for that coveted holiday-vacation read **SUE CARTER** FOR METRO

Every gift in the book

The Devil You Know, **Elisabeth di Mariaffi** **(Patrick Crean Editions)**

Elisabeth di Mariaffi's first thriller, set in 1993 just prior to the arrest of serial rapist Paul Bernardo, introduces a confident new voice who perfectly capturing the paranoia and fear of the time through the eyes of a young reporter.

The Social History of Ink, **Ted Bishop (Viking)**

Alberta professor Ted Bishop travels the world to uncover the cultural history of ink. Who knew that the ubiquitous ball-point pen has such a sordid legacy of murder, rivalries and intrigue?

Kim Echlin, Under the Visible Life (Hamish Hamilton)

The power of music and the isolation of being an outsider makes Kim Echlin's story about a decades-long friendship between two women one of the year's most overlooked novels.

Beyond the Pale: Folklore, Family, and the Mystery of Our Hidden Genes, Emily Urquhart (HarperCollins)

After giving birth to a daughter with albinism, Emily Urquhart uses her background as a folklorist to uncover various stories and fables in hopes of better understanding the cultural narratives surrounding the genetic disorder.

If I Fall, If I Die, **Michael Christie (McClelland & Stewart)**

Vancouver author and former pro-skateboarder Michael Christie draws on his personal history in this novel about a young boy in Thunder Bay who longs to go outside and leave the safety of his agoraphobic mother.

Sidewalk Flowers, JonArno Lawson and Sydney Smith (Groundwood Books)

Sure, it's technically a kids' picture book, but JonArno Lawson's wordless poem, about a young girl observing the world while her distracted dad carries on their walk, is a poignant

ant reminder for grown-ups to slow down. Warning: Sydney Smith's gorgeous illustrations may draw a few tears.

Stalin's Daughter, **Rosemary Sullivan (HarperCollins)**

History buffs will love Rosemary Sullivan's meaty biography of Svetlana Aliluyeva, the only daughter of the tyrant dictator Joseph Stalin, who spent her long, fascinating life trying to escape her father's name.

Russell Smith, **Confidence (Biblioasis)**

It has been nearly 20 years since Russell Smith burst onto the literary scene heralding a new generation of writers more interested in what was happening at the cocktail bar than the CanLit settings of yore. Smith's short stories prove that he is still an astute observer of urban mores.

The Brief Reincarnation of a Girl, Sue Goyette (Gaspereau Books)

Sue Goyette's powerful poetry collection doubles as documentary as she tries to make sense of the true-life story of a couple tried for murder after their young child died from a prescribed drug cocktail meant to treat ADHD and bipolar disorder.

James Grainger, Harmless (McClelland & Stewart)

It's no surprise that Atom Egoyan has already optioned James Grainger's debut novel. This taut, economically written thriller about a friends' weekend away contains some gory twists, and doubles as a clever exploration of contemporary masculinity.

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



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Weeknights at 6 Hannah counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

PSIX@6 LAST NIGHT:

- 6 Ariana Grande Focus
- 5 Shawn Mendes ft Camila Cabello I Know What You Did Last Summer
- 4 Daya Hideaway
- 3 Justin Bieber Sorry
- 2 Classified ft Snoop Dogg No Pressure
- 1 Adele Hello

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20 Thursday, December 10, 2015

Books **metrolife**

Ripley's tales hang by a head, or hair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

Curiosity drives popular oddities series, archivist says

Dean Lisk
Metro | Canada

At what point does a person realize they can dislocate their eyeball from its socket, or swallow a sword, or contort their body so it fits into a suitcase, or even lift a washing machine with only their hair?

"I think sword swallowing is lame. That is where I draw the line. But, how you learn you can swallow a sword is one of the greatest mysteries of my life," says Edward Meyer, vice president of exhibits and archives at Ripley's Entertainment Inc.

He had a chance to learn the answer a number of years ago when he met the man who holds a record for the most swords swallowed at once, the longest sword swallowed and who can even bend over and bow while

performing the trick. "I asked him, I'd wanted to ask a sword swallower this for 20 years, how did you learn to do this? And, I kid you not, he was a juggler and he found out the sword swallower in the show was

earning twice his salary. He decided he was going to learn to do it. He walked into an army surplus store, took a sword off the wall and shoved it down his throat.

"He hurt himself, but realized what the trick was right away, and said, 'Hey I can do this.'

Sword swallowing is one of the believable — even though you may be taken aback by it — facts included in Ripley's Believe It Or Not! Eye-Popping Oddities, the 12th and newest in a

series that examines some of the odd, unusual and unbelievable.

"It's human curiosity, in a nutshell" Meyer says of Ripley's appeal. As the archivist, he takes care of the more than 35,000 exhibits in the entertainment chain's 32 "odditoriums" around the world, more than 50,000 photographs, and the 120,000 cartoons from its 98-years (and counting) of newspaper-syndicated columns.

"People want to know about the rest of the world and their place in it. And, if they are odd or

Eye-Popping Oddities is the 12th book in the Ripley's Believe It Or Not! series.
LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

eccentric, they want to think they have a big place in it, and that 15 minutes of fame that Andy Warhol promised

everybody is a big motivator."

Many of the things you will find in the book, including a young woman who can lift a washing machine by her hair while hanging upside down, are submitted by the public. It's a tradition which began with Robert Ripley, who created his first Believe It Or Not! cartoon for The New York Globe in 1918.

"He realized that people were his greatest source of information," says Meyer. "He said give me your stuff and I will make you famous, that is what it boils down to."

TOO WEIRD EVEN FOR RIPLEY'S

Editor's pick
Meyer's favourite picture in the book is from 1931 and features an animal trainer, who goes by the nickname "Cheerful" hanging from an elephant's mouth like a human pendulum.



"The faith in his training skills that this elephant isn't going to crush him, isn't going to sneeze on him or inhale him, or anything else, is mind blowing."

What readers want

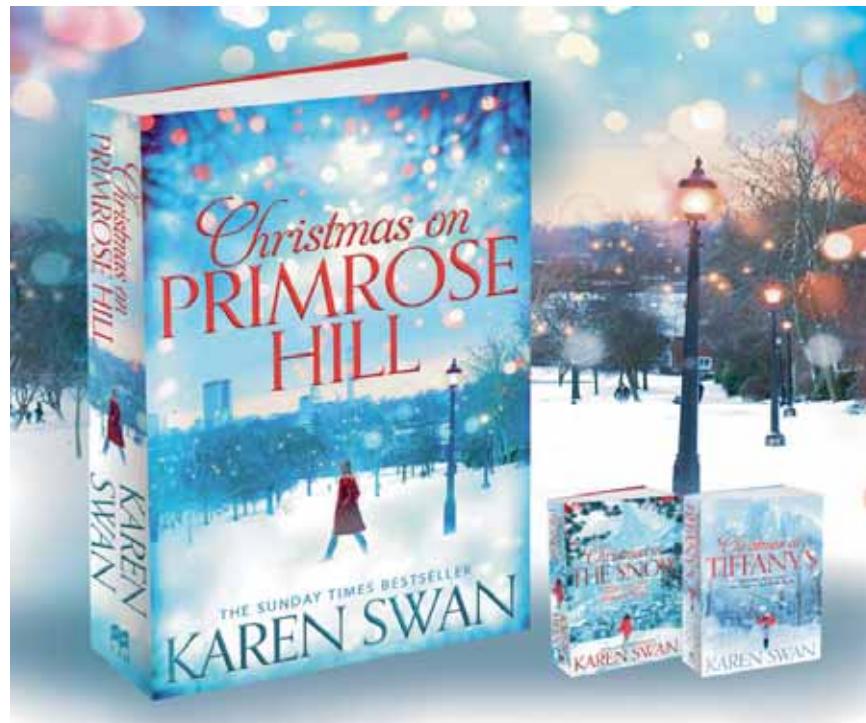
While every book Ripley's puts out is different, Meyer says every edition includes a chapter on food.

"I don't get it," he says. "I've probably eaten more weird food than anybody else you will ever meet, but I don't like looking at pictures of weird foods. Give

me the duck head, and I will try it, but I don't need to stare at it."

What you won't find
If it's 100 per cent true, Ripley's wants it. But, there are some things they won't touch, says Meyer.

"We shy away from nudity — totally away from pornography. We aren't really keen on aliens or 'witchcraft.' If you can't prove it — that doesn't mean we aren't interested in it — but if you can't prove it, we are not going to put our name on it." DEAN LISK/METRO



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Hello! Magazine

PUBLISHERS GROUP CANADA

ANGEL CATBIRD

Margaret Atwood pens her first graphic novel

Venerable Canadian novelist Margaret Atwood is expanding her repertoire in an unlikely direction as the author of a three-part superhero graphic novel.

Atwood will write the series entitled Angel Catbird for Dark Horse Comics, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary next year.

Atwood contacted the publication — based in Milwaukie, Ore. — on the advice of Hope Nicholson, who recently ran a successful Kickstarter campaign to create The Secret Lives of Geek Girls. Atwood contributed some original comic drawings to that all-female non-fiction anthology.



There will be something for everyone and a lot of cat puns too
Editor Daniel Chabon

"Margaret brought her project to Dark Horse and we talked about it and we're very, very excited and quickly got it approved (by) her and started

working on it," editor Daniel Chabon said.

"There'll be an antagonist in the story and a love interest. There'll be something different for everyone and a lot of cat puns, too. It's fantastic," Chabon said.

"This is a great book to add to our line. Of course if it does well, we'd like to do more," Chabon added.

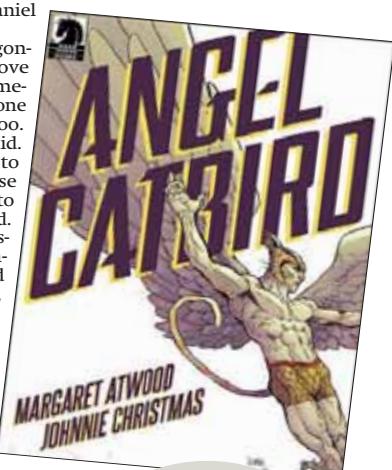
The series will be illustrated by another Canadian, Vancouver-based artist Johnnie Christmas, with the first part set for release in September 2016.

Chabon acknowledged the challenge of working with an author of Atwood's calibre.

"It's funny because (Atwood) has been writing forever so it's a little intimidating sometimes to try to give her notes and stuff like that. It's like, 'how on Earth am I going to give notes to Margaret Atwood?'" Chabon said.

"But she (Atwood) is very receptive to notes. It's been a pleasure so far being able to work with her," he added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



PULP INSPIRED
Editor Daniel Chabon described the project as "a pulp-inspired superhero story" about a scientist fused with an owl.

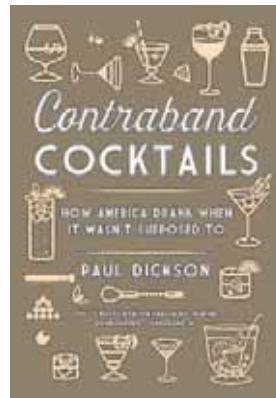
3

PICKS FOR THE BOOK LOVERS ON YOUR LIST

Everyone knows the best gifts are the ones that are thoughtful and a wink to the gift recipient's personality. Forget those generic gift cards and go for one of these fun books. Whether you're looking for something for your office Secret Santa party, for the guy or girl you're kind of into, or for your best friend, you're sure to win some points with one of these picks. **EMILY LAURENCE FOR METRO**

1 Contraband Cocktails
by Paul Dickson

Give your favourite drinking buddy a recipe book for cocktails made popular during Prohibition. Just because consuming alcohol was illegal didn't stop people from drinking; there were over 32,000 speakeasies in New York City alone. Author Paul Dickson serves up some fascinating history and photographs of the Prohibition Era, and lots of recipes to keep you warm through the winter.



2 Picador Modern Classics

These pocket-sized titles are stunning, and even though they're tiny, the font isn't ridiculously small or hard to read. Books as good as Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicides* and *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson.

3 The Rap Year Book
by Shea Serrano

This new book highlights the pivotal moments in rap from the past 36 years. Biggie, Tupac, Sugarhill Gang, Drake — they're all in here. And with an intro by Ice-T, colorful pages packed with quizzes, lyric maps, artist portraits and infographics, it's way cooler than any history book. You've ever seen.



 **BOOK BRIEFS**

Nonfiction prize long list announced

Twelve titles have made the long list for the 2016 RBC Taylor Prize for non-fiction, including one by a former winner and another that's already won a major award.

Toronto journalist Ian Brown, who won the \$25,000 Taylor prize in 2010 for his memoir *The Boy in the Moon: A Father's Search for His Disabled Son*, made the cut this time for *Sixty: The Beginning of the End, or the End of the Beginning?* (Random House Canada). Also on the list is *Stalin's Daughter: The Extraordinary and Turbulent Life of Svetlana Alliluyeva* (HarperCollins Publishers) by Toronto's Rosemary Sullivan, which won the \$60,000 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction in October.

Another title on the list is *Road Trip Rwanda: A Journey Into the New Heart of Africa* (Viking Canada) by Calgary's Will Ferguson, who won the 2012 Scotiabank Giller Prize for his novel *419*.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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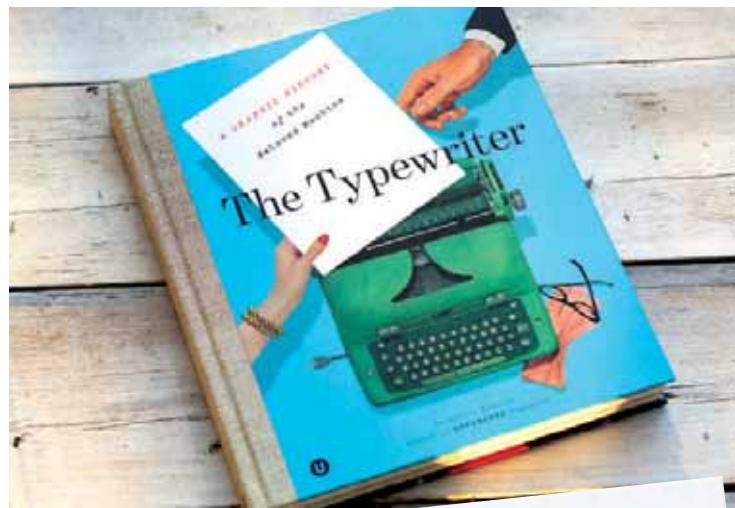
The Typewriter: A Graphic History of the Beloved Machine (UPPERCASE publishing) is filled with facts, photos, illustrations and advertisements that illuminate a subject which is occasionally provocative and unexpectedly fascinating.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Keyboard basics

One of the earliest examples of a typewriter keyboard shows a design that competed with and eventually prevailed over rival designs to become the standard for typewriter and computer keyboards in the modern era. Note that in the interest of economy, the keyboard in the picture does not include a key for the number 1, instead relying on uppercase I or a lowercase l. Other machines at the time omitted 0 for the same reason.



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Typewriting Protocol (pullout book)

The handbook, entitled *How to be a super-secretary*, offers a range of etiquette tips and ideas for working women that is rife with sexist language and is frequently hilarious. For example, on appropriate dress for the office, ladies should find the balance between "ultra-extreme" and "over casual" and avoid elaborate makeup and hair styles. A two-page quiz encourages secretaries to rate their performance in 13 categories and then to check it again six months later. An extensive list of boss pet peeves includes admonitions against "chewing gum" and "swearing (this should be the boss's privilege)."



Early advertisements

As women began to enter the workforce in ever greater numbers, an array of post cards from the early 20th century demonstrate the issue of office romance in ways ranging from gently humorous to downright lecherous. The underlying message is that men are in charge in the workplace and may or may not take liberties while women may be objects of attraction but are always subordinate.



Origins of the office pool

A lantern slide shows a typical scene in a secretarial pool busily working away in a crowded office space in Vienna circa 1910. Note that the women are all well covered in the conservative dress of the day and wear their hair pinned up. The slide has been hand-painted to add colour to their cheeks. This is the stereotypical example of secretaries with demure smiles and fashionable dress.

CANADA'S TOP TEN FILM FESTIVAL

Youth a big theme at fest

The majority of the Canadian movies picked for Canada's Top Ten Film Festival feature a youthful perspective.

Guantanamo's Child: Omar Khadr, by Patrick Reed and the Toronto Star's Michelle Shephard; Patricia Rozema's Into the Forest, starring Ellen Page and Evan Rachel Wood, and Andrew Cividino's Sleeping Giant are among the seven films on the list that focus on young protagonists.

In the case of Alan Zweig's HURT, about Steve Fonyo's tumultuous life in the 30 years since his 1985 cancer fund-raising run across Canada at age 19, the documentary forms a disturbing story of a tarnished legacy.

"The future is really bright for Canadian cinema," said TIFF artistic director Cameron Bailey. "For anyone who's looking to see what's going on right now in Canadian movies, I think I would look to young people."

Bailey noted that Sleeping Giant and Closet Monster are both by first-time feature filmmakers.

"We always want a lot more young people to watch Canadian films," Bailey adds.

ed. "If this helps, then that's great."

The Top 10 features, shorts and student shorts for 2015 were chosen by panels of filmmakers.

"The shorts, I think, are certainly some of the best films we've got on our list this year and certainly some of the best films that have been made in this country this year," said Bailey.

Rounding out the Top 10 feature list is Anne Emond's

Les êtres chers (Our Loved Ones), Guy Maddin and Evan Johnson's The Forbidden Room and Philippe Falardeau's My Internship in Canada.

The festival runs Jan. 8 to 17, 2016 in Toronto, with select screenings also scheduled in Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Halifax and Ottawa.

For a full list of Top 10 films and screening schedules, go to tiff.net.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



A wave of kidnappings of young boys shocks Montreal in Philippe Lesage's *The Demons* (*Les démons*). CONTRIBUTED

AWARDS

Trumbo leads with three SAG nods

The Hollywood blacklist drama Trumbo scored a leading three Screen Actors Guild Awards nominations on Wednesday, and sleeper contenders Beasts of No Nation and Straight Outta Compton entered the awards conversation in a real way when both were nominated for best ensemble drama.

Beasts of No Nation star Idris Elba was also nominated for best supporting actor, as well as for his role in TV's Luther. Other best ensemble nominees included Spotlight, which is emerging as the strongest candidate for best picture so far this season; Trumbo; and the housing bubble dramedy The

Big Short.

The 22nd annual Screen Actors Guild Awards honouring the best film and television performances of the year will be presented Jan. 30 and broadcast live from Los Angeles on TNT and TBS.

Starry ensemble casts left out of the SAG nominations included Ridley Scott's The Martian, Quentin Tarantino's The Hateful Eight and David O. Russell's Joy.

While Straight Outta Compton was a box office and critical hit, its award season prospects were unknown. On Monday, the African-American Film Critics Association named the N.W.A

drama their best of the year, but it's been mostly overlooked by other critics' awards.

The nominations helped bring a murky awards season into a bit more focus, and SAG's choices highlighted a few underdog performances.

Leading female performance nominees included Cate Blanchett (Carol), Brie Larson (Room) and Saoirse Ronan (Brooklyn), all of whom have dominated awards buzz, but also Sarah Silverman for the depression indie I Smile Back, and Helen Mirren for Woman in Gold, about an elderly Jewish woman looking to reclaim art once stolen by the Nazis. Mirren was also nominated for a supporting performance for Trumbo.

The lead actor nominees were a bit more expected, with recognition for Bryan Cranston (Trumbo), Johnny Depp (Black Mass), Leonardo DiCaprio (The Revenant), Michael Fassbender (Steve Jobs), and Eddie Redmayne (The Danish Girl).

In the supporting category, Christian Bale was nominated for The Big Short, Mark Rylance for the Cold War thriller Bridge of Spies, Michael Shannon for playing a predatory real estate agent in 99 Homes and nine-year-old Vancouver native Jacob Tremblay was acknowledged for playing a child in captivity in Room.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Trumbo landed three Screen Actors Guild Awards nominations. HANDOUT

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Peak Meta has arrived on the small screen

THE GRINDER, SEASON ONE, EPISODE THREE (CITY/FOX)

The Sanderson family — put-upon lawyer Stewart (Fred Savage), his wife Debbie (Mary Elizabeth Ellis), his brusque dad Dean Sr. (William Devane), and his heartthrob ex-TV-star brother Dean Jr. (Rob Lowe) are discussing Ray Donovan. (That's Ray Donovan the real TV series, which airs on a rival network, Showtime.)

This entire Grinder episode has revolved around someone erasing Ray Donovan from the family PVR. The words "Ray Donovan" have been uttered six times. Finally, they're watching the show. "Who's that?" Dean Sr. asks. "Ray Donovan!" the others holler.

Welcome to Peak Meta. The Grinder is the name of this show. It's also the name of the show-within-the-show that Dean Jr. starred in (and the name of his character).

It's a prodigal son story: To Stewart's eternal exasperation, people take Dean Jr. seriously as a lawyer simply because he



The power of TV is constantly referred to on *The Grinder*. HANDOUT

played one on TV. The power and ubiquity of TV are referred to constantly. And of course, all four actors are known from now-iconic series The Wonder Years (Savage), The West Wing (Lowe), It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia (Ellis) and Knot's Landing (Devane).

Not long ago, meta-TV was an erudite concept found only on haute-cable shows. (Who remembers the telefilm The Positively True Adventures of

the Alleged Texas Cheerleader-Murdering Mom, which made HBO hip in 1993?) Today it's as dated as the viewers who dived out of the way when they first saw Lumiere's train movie. Now that we barely exist off screen, meta is a sitcom punchline, the TV equivalent of Normcore.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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GOSSIP BRIEFS

Dad on the dating market

One Direction member Louis Tomlinson tried — and apparently failed — to make things work with girlfriend Briana Jungwirth, but he's since broken up with her, according to Life & Style. Oh, and Jungwirth is due to give birth to his kid next month.



"He dumped her," a source says, adding that the pregnant makeup artist didn't see it coming. "They had been trying to work things out the past few weeks during his One Direction tour. He even introduced Briana to his mom."

Maybe that didn't go so well? Anyway,

lest he be labeled a complete wanker, Tomlinson has "promised to love and support their child financially."

NED EHRBAR/METRO

Justin Bieber's Instagram crush

Justin Bieber shared an image of a mystery girl on his Instagram with the caption "Who is this!!" — which was quickly answered by his fans who, much like the flying

monkeys of the Wicked Witch of the West, set out to fetch the account info of the girl for Bieber. Turns out she's a 17-year-old from Spain named Cindy Kimberly, according to BuzzFeed.

"I do so not know how to deal with this," Kimberly wrote in an Instagram post. Bieber, likely scared off by the fact that his Instagram crush is only 17, carried on with his life (posting pictures of his Playboy bunny-themed pants, and a car). MATTHEW LEE/METRO

Halle Berry is in a good place

So how is Halle Berry doing since her split from husband Olivier Martinez? Funny you should ask.

Less than two months after filing for divorce, Berry "is in a very peaceful and happy place at this time" and is dating "here and there," according



to E! News.

She hasn't gotten into another relationship since her breakup but she has been talking to a few people very lightly and going out when she has time. She enjoys being single and doing her own thing."

NED EHRBAR/METRO

MUSIC

Only copy of Wu Tang album goes unplayed

I could be convinced to listen to it earlier if Taylor Swift wants to hear it or something like that.

Martin Shkreli

Obviously there was no chance any of us were going to be the eventual owner of Once Upon a Time in Shaolin, Wu Tang Clan's new album for which they only made one physical copy, but I didn't expect this.

The new owner is Martin Shkreli, the pharmaceutical CEO who rose to infamy earlier this year for jacking up the price of an AIDS medication to \$750 a pill.

And what's even worse? He apparently hasn't even listened to it yet, as he's saving it for when he needs a pick-me-up.

"I could be convinced to listen to it earlier if Taylor Swift wants to hear it or something like that," Shkreli says, according to Bloomberg. "But for now, I think I'm going to kind of save it for a rainy day."

You monster. NED EHRBAR/METRO

Trudeau: Political pinup romances Vogue readers

PUBLISHING

Sure the pics are sexy, but they could be even steamier

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

So Vogue has gone and included newly minted Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in its January 2016 issue, along with a striking portrait photo by Norman Jean Roy that dolls him up like an old Hollywood star. A sexy embrace with his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, is also captured by Roy. In Canada, the photos and articles were widely shared



Justin Trudeau Is the New Young Face of Canadian Politics

VOGUE.COM

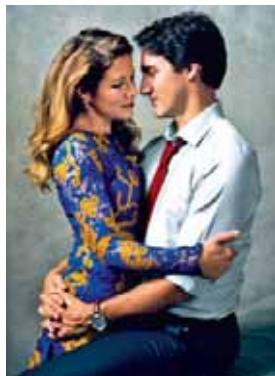
PHOTO CREDITS: SCREENSHOTS FROM VOGUE.COM/FACEBOOK/PINTEREST

on social media (pictured).

Now, discussions of Trudeau's looks are nothing new, but this feels like a whole

new level. But did we miss a major opportunity? Imagine, for a moment, that Vogue had gone with their usual shooter for all things easy on the eyes, Annie Liebowitz.

shooter for all things easy on the eyes, Annie Liebowitz.



Trudeau's wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau (in an Oscar de la Renta dress), says of their first date, "At the end of dinner he said, 'I'm 31 years old, and I've bee...

We could've maybe had something like her infamous photo shoot with Miley Cyrus for Vanity Fair.

And now that the image of Justin Trudeau coquettishly wrapped in just a bed sheet is planted firmly in your head, I'll leave you to enjoy the rest of your day.

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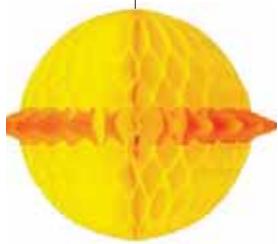
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Your essential daily news

For the ultimate Star Wars fan: Millennium Falcon bed from Pottery Barn Kids



STARRY NIGHT CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS FROM OUTER SPACE



A planet or two

Banish from your mind those ugly reproductions of the solar system in science class. This paper planet will give your Christmas tree an air of elegance. (15 pounds/\$31 CDN from the Conran Shop)



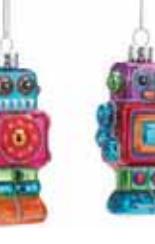
A beaded astronaut

Who said that space explorers lacked style? Not the Conran Shop, which has dressed its astronaut in beads. (10 pounds/\$21 CDN)



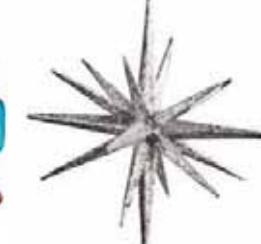
A Star Wars tree

Star Wars is everywhere, in store windows, on TV, and even on your Christmas tree. You'll have to choose between the light side of the Force with this handsome Yoda in resin from Walmart, or the dark side with the shadowy Darth Vader. (\$7.47 US/\$10 CDN each)



Some festive robots

We can't have a space theme without a robot. These cute ones are multi-coloured and sparkly. (\$21.50 US/\$29 CDN for a set of three from Paper Chase)



A starry sky

And lastly let's not forget the star, which decorates our tree, but is also a celestial body floating in space. (\$3 US/\$4 CDN from Paper Chase) AFP

How to get festive in a hurry

TIPS

Six ways to decorate for the holidays in 20 minutes

With the holidays around the corner, it's time to add a little festive decor to your home. But not everyone has the space, time or desire to fit a big tree or lots of holiday tchotchkies in their home. Here are a handful of ways to add simple holiday vignettes that are small-space-friendly in 20 minutes or less.

1 Greenery on a mantle art

Bring the outdoors in.

Gather some vases and fill with fresh winter greenery for an eye-catching mantle display. We used milk glass vases from a thrift shop but you can get a similar look using clear vases or by upcycling jars or bottles.

No mantle, but still love the look? Place the vases on open shelving or as a centrepiece on a holiday table.

Keep greenery fresh by cutting the stems at an angle before placing in water. Freshen water daily.



3

a sweet little fawn look whimsical inside a glass or jam jar.

Make faux snow by using salt or sugar. Then add a fawn and a tree.

You can buy bottlebrush trees at craft stores (or even dollar stores) and the tiny fawns can be found at bakery supply stores and on Etsy.

3 Tray on a side table

A coffee table or side table is a great place to have fun adding some holiday decor. Gather seasonal items together on a tray. They don't have to be Christmas decorations. Think outside of the holiday box.

Try stacking some vintage books in pretty shades of green, adding a snow globe, some candles and a touch of greenery.

Vintage books can be found at thrift shops such as Goodwill or The Salvation Army. Add pieces with varying height, and layer with textures using natural elements like pine cones to keep it visually interesting.

Anchor it all on a tray to keep it organized and stylish.

4 Surprise bouquet

Tie some fresh greenery together with floral wire to create a mini bouquet.

Add velvet ribbon and tie it to the handle of a cabinet or a doorknob. So simple — yet so effective.

Little details like this add a special touch. That's what the season's all about.

5 Chalkboard on a wall

Go vertical.

Turn a chalkboard into a tree and trim it with holiday cookie cutters. String some baker's twine or ribbon through a cookie cutter and hang it on your wall using Washi (pretty paper) tape.

No chalkboard? Use Washi tape to create the outline of a tree on an empty wall and decorate with cookie cutter ornaments.

6 Decor by candlelight

Take a set of plain white candles and embellish them with touches of holiday greenery tied with string.

To help the greenery stay in place, use a little glue or spray adhesive and then wrap the string around the candle.

Be sure to use these candles in a place you can keep an eye on them.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



1



2



5

No time (or space) for a big tree? Sometimes a little fresh greenery and cookie-cutter "ornaments" are all you need. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The book on the best reads

Tanya Enberg

From humorous memoirs and edge-of-your seat thrillers to must-read young-adult fiction and slumber-themed stories, some of the best books of 2015 can make the perfect gift for every type of reader on your list.

Adults

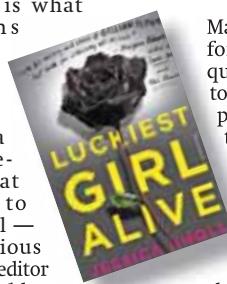
Among the Ten Thousand Things

Julia Pierpont, \$31
Random House

A husband's scorned ex-mistress sends a large box of X-rated emails exchanged between the two to his wife. When the couple's 11-year-old daughter Kay opens the package first and shares the contents with her older brother, the emotional tone is set in the early pages of Julia Pierpont's novel, as domestic life begins a fast downward spiral to crack the family's façade of happiness.

Luckiest Girl Alive
Jessica Knoll, \$32.99
Simon & Schuster Canada

Nothing is what it seems in this buzzing crime novel. Ani is a 20-something that appears to have it all — a prestigious magazine editor job and a blue-blood fiancé — except that she doesn't. Ani's identity is a complete fabrica-



tion. After enduring various traumas growing up, she designed the perfectly coiffed, multi-level alias to try and bury her true identity. Trouble is, some demons may prove too persistent to keep secret.

In the Unlikely Event

Judy Blume, \$34
Doubleday Canada

Breaking from the tradition of penning addictive books for young girls, Judy Blume's recent novel was written for adults and inspired by tragic real-life occurrences. In Blume's hometown of Elizabeth, N.J., where the novel is based, three commercial passenger plane crashes occur within two months while the author was in grade school. These disasters serve as the backdrop in a blend of fact and fiction told through multiple characters, with 15-year-old Miri Ammerman at the heart of it.

The Kaufmann Mercantile Guide: How to Split Wood, Shuck an Oyster, and Master other Simple Pleasures

Alexandra Redgrave, Jessica Hundley and Sebastian Kaufmann, \$33.95 Princeton Architectural Press

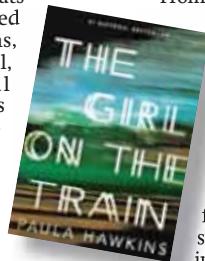
Make space on the coffee table for this comprehensive and quirky hardcover guidebook to mastering simple tasks and pleasures inside and outside the home. From brewing that all-important perfect cup of coffee and fixing a flat bike tire to creating urban composts and properly splitting wood, this smart hardcover guide shows readers how to get the job done right, with easy-to-follow instructions and simple illustrations.

The book on the best reads

The Girl on the Train

Paula Hawkins, \$24.95
Doubleday Canada

Daily commutes will never be the same. Taking readers to the edge of their seats with unexpected twists and turns, this suspenseful, psychological thriller moves beyond traditional whodunit narratives and digs into ugly grit of human frailties, revealing infidelity, addiction and the suspenseful search for a ruthless killer.



Finders Keepers

Stephen King, \$39.99
Simon & Schuster Canada

A familiar theme returns in this thrilling sequel to Mr. Mercedes. Here, a reader's obsession with an author turns sinister. Recalling King's 1987 novel Misery, in which a deranged fan forces her idol to keep writing by cutting off various body parts, this suspenseful novel is about reclusive fictional writer John Rothstein, who is shot in the head and has his notebooks stolen by his own psychotic No. 1 fan.

Boys in Trees: A Memoir

Carly Simon, \$33.50
Flatiron Books

Music fans will appreciate this revealing memoir by legendary singer-songwriter Carly Simon. Simon recalls her creative childhood and revisits her folk-artist music debut in Greenwich Village with sister Lucy (performing as The Simon Sisters), her meteoric rise to international stardom, and her famous romantic entanglements.

Teens

Carry On

Rainbow Rowell, \$22.99
St. Martin's Press

From the New York Times' best-selling author of Eleanor and Park comes a re-entry into the young-adult mind. The attempts of protagonist Simon Snow to slip under the radar during his final year at elite Watford School of Magicks prove futile in this imaginative story involving a magic-eating monster, ghosts, drama, mystery and love, of course.

P.S. I Still Love You

Jenny Han, \$22.99
Simon & Schuster Canada

After the New York Times' best-selling To All The Boys I've Loved Before, Lara Jean returns in the sequel and finds that she's unexpectedly falling for Peter. When a past romance returns, Lara is more confused than ever when it comes to matters of the heart.

An Ember in the Ashes

Sabaa Tahir, \$23.95
Razorbill (Penguin Random House)

The cruelty of class systems is explored in Sabaa Tahir's thought-provoking novel. The Scholars are laden with fear, sadness and desperation. They barely earn enough to survive and live under constant fear of imprisonment and the threat of vanishing without a trace, trying to survive in an empire existing under the barbaric rule of the Marshals.



The Story of Owen: Dragon Slayer of Trondheim

E.K. Johnston, \$22.95
Carolrhoda Books

Imaginations are stirred in this epic fantasy that tells the tale of high school students Siobhan McQuaid and Owen Thorskard, living in a rural Ontario town and facing rising daily threats of dragon attacks.

Mosquitoland

David Arnold, \$13.99
Viking Books for Young Readers

A funny and heart-warming debut novel by David Arnold tells the story of 16-year-old runaway Mim, who has stolen cash to travel via Greyhound bus from Mississippi, where she's living with her dad and stepmom, to Ohio to get to her mom. During the road trip, Mim crosses paths with an eclectic spree of characters, learning insights as she goes.

The Gameknight999 Box Set: Six Unofficial Minecrafter's Adventures!

Mark Cheverton, \$35
Sky Pony Press

Six action-packed adventure novels are combined in one handy box set that will thrill fans of the game Minecraft. When player Gameknight999 is accidentally transported into the game's dangerous digital world, he is forced to go to battle against an onslaught of enemies, zombies, spiders and creepers among them, to try and keep himself and his friends alive.

Children

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to School

Benjamin Chaud and Davide Cali, \$16.99
Chronicle Books

Excuses for being late to school reach hilarious new depths in this book. Thanks to breakfast-stealing ants, evil ninjas, a giant blob and memorable detours, actually arriving to school at all is no small feat indeed. Parents, be warned: This highly entertaining, laugh-out-loud book is likely to give kids a few new tall tales to help explain random lateness.



Pete the Cat's Groovy Guide to Life

James Dean, \$15.99
HarperCollins Canada

Another imaginative tale featuring everyone's favourite cat is sure to delight. The sassy, ever-optimistic Pete shares wise and inspirational quotes by famous people, with everyone from Shakespeare and Confucius to Thomas Edison and Pete's chilled-out responses to accompany.

Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site and Steam Train, Dream Train

Board Books Boxed Set
Sherri Duskey Rinker, \$20.99
Chronicle Books

Sleepy-headed infants will enjoy the pairing together of two New York Times bestsellers in this durable board book style gift set. Gentle rhyming and slumber-friendly themes will help soothe the little ones to sleep.

Colouring isn't just for kids anymore!

Use these popular colouring books for adults to engage your creative side and to de-stress.

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Pets set to get Xmas benefits

Ylva Van Buuren

T'was the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring... except for the family pet who was sniffing around under the tree. Wrap up one of these practical and fun gift ideas for the pets on your list.



2

RAIN DATE: Some dogs dislike the rain... but the Pet Life Pour-Protection Umbrella will keep them dry. It has a reflective lining and leash holder. \$34 at Amazon.ca.

ADD LIGHT YEARS: Active cats will love the PetSafe Bolt Interactive Laser Toy — and it gives owners quality time with their pet too. \$21.99 at Amazon.ca

TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT: Invite your four-legged friend to curl up on this designer dog bed by Jo Alcorn. \$99 at Shop.ca.



4

BARK BINGO: Wrap up a dog bingo game for the pet lover on your list. \$39.95 at Crate & Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.



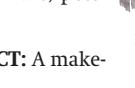
6

PLAY BALL: Dogs can learn to retrieve with the Toys "R" Us Pets Fetch 'N' Treat Interactive Dog Toy — when the dog retrieves the ball and drops it in, the toy gives him a treat. \$29.99 at PetSmart, petsmart.ca.



6

JINGLE BELL: Adjustable glow-in-the-dark collar is comfortable and lightweight, and a jingle bell makes it easy to find the cat. Martha Stewart Pets collar, \$9.99 at PetSmart, petsmart.ca.



7

PICTURE PERFECT: A make-

your-own pet calendar is a wonderful and thoughtful gift for any animal lover. A3 or A4 Wall Calendars feature 13 photos each. \$22 at Photobox.ca.

CHEW ON THIS: Plush dog chew toy, \$5.99 at Winners, winners.ca.

HOLIDAY HELP: Wrap up a CanadaHelps Charity Gift Card — and invite the recipient to choose the charity from hundreds dedicated to the welfare of animals. Available in any denomination starting at \$5 at CanadaHelps.org.

STINKY POOCH? The Rainburst Simple Shower uses a hydration reservoir or a 2L bottle of water to hose down your pet... and that will be a welcome gift for anyone who hikes or camps with their foraging four-legged friend (you never know what they're going to discover in the bushes!) \$10.75 at Mountain Equipment Co-op, mec.ca.

FOR FEATHERED FRIENDS: Perky Pet Mason Jar Wild Bird Seed Feeder looks like a vintage blue glass canning jar used in the 1800s, and will add a rustic appeal to any yard or balcony. The feeder has eight feeding ports and holds about one pound of seeds. \$26.99 at Canvasback Pet Supplies, canvasbackpets.com.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: Cats travel in comfort and style in a Sherpa Original Deluxe Carrier. Available in small,



1

medium and large sizes, it comes with a seatbelt and luggage strap. \$69.99-\$79.99 at Canvasback Pet Supplies, canvasbackpets.com.

PAW PROTECTION: Wellies dog boots protect paws from snow, salt, rain and mud. Extra-wide opening and Velcro closure make them easy to put on and take off. In black or red, durable yet soft silicone rubber. Different sizes start at \$20.99. Canada Pooch Stores, canadapooch.com.

FOR BIRD BRAINS: Spirax cotton rope bird toy by Zoo-Max has pony beads and a small bell for fun play. Non-toxic. Assembles with a small wire. \$10.99 at Pet Valu, petvalu.com.

SPECIAL OCCASION: You can dress them up... and pretty well take them anywhere in a Pet Rainbow Tutu. Available in small, medium and large sizes, \$7.99 at Pet Valu, petvalu.com.

SOLE SAVING: For a dog that has trouble walking on hardwood floors, Muttsokks paw protection socks have non-skid soles for indoor traction. Available in six sizes, \$11 for a set of 4 at muttsokks.com

7

1 Pet Rainbow Tutu, \$7.99 at Pet Valu, petvalu.com.

2 PetSafe Bolt Interactive Laser Toy, \$21.99 at Amazon.ca.

3 Perky Pet Mason Jar Wild Bird Seed Feeder, \$26.99 at Canvasback Pet

Supplies, canvasbackpets.com.

4 Designer dog bed by Jo Alcorn, \$99 at Shop.ca.

5 Sherpa Original Deluxe Carrier, \$69.99-\$79.99 at Canvasback Pet Supplies, canvasbackpets.com.

6 Rainburst Simple Shower, \$10.75 at Mountain Equipment Co-op, mec.ca.

7 Pet Life Pour-Protection Umbrella, \$34 at Amazon.ca.



Commit to Local for the Holidays

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Gadgets for your guy

Marc Saltzman

If it's true boys love their toys, then you'll find plenty of gadgety gift ideas to choose from this holiday season.

Whether you're shopping for a significant other, your dad, son or nephew, the latest in consumer electronics can go a long way.

Here's a look at a few suggestions.

Taking control

These amazing Harmony universal remotes from Logitech are super easy to program and use; simply plug the Harmony (from \$49.99) into a computer's USB port and download codes from the Internet to the device, then press one of the activity-based commands on the remote, such as "Watch TV" or "Play a Blu-ray." The Harmony does the rest by turning on only the devices you need and switching to the right settings to begin watching. The flagship model, Harmony Elite (\$389.99), replaces up to 15 remotes, houses a 2.4-inch touch screen (with support for an optional app), and through its hub (included) can also control other smart home devices.

Through the looking glass If you're shopping for someone who likes skiing, mountain climbing or cycling, you might opt for one of those trendy POV ("point of view") cameras. The GoPro HERO4 Silver (from \$529.99) captures all the action from a first-person perspective, and hands-free, too, when mounted to your helmet, chest or bike (or since it's waterproof, maybe your snowboard or water skis). This version can

shoot up to 4K Ultra HD video quality (15 frames per second) along with 12-megapixel photos up to 30 frames per second, and also features built-in and fast Wi-Fi connectivity to wirelessly send the videos and photos to a computer or website. If budget permits, the GoPro HERO4 Black edition (\$649.99) shoots 4K video at a smoother 30 frames per second.

Listen up

If you're buying for a music lover, the House of Marley Liberate XL Over-Ear Sound Isolating Bluetooth Headphones (\$149.99) block out ambient noise without a cable getting in the way. Simply pair these headphones with your favourite smartwatch, phone, tablet, laptop or music player, and enjoy wireless freedom up to about 65 feet away. Available in black or silver, these headphones are made with FSC-certified wood, stainless steel and exclusive Rewind fabric (made from hemp, recycled plastics and more). Other features include 50mm dynamic moving coil drivers, an inline microphone to



about 65 feet away. Available in black or silver, these headphones are made with FSC-certified wood, stainless steel and exclusive Rewind fabric (made from hemp, recycled plastics and more). Other features include 50mm dynamic moving coil drivers, an inline microphone to

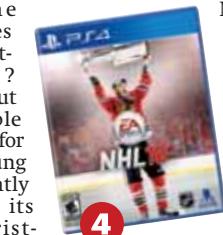
take calls, and controls on the right earcup for power, volume, tracking and more. Battery life lasts up to 12 hours.

Watch this

What to buy someone who loves his smartphone? How about a wearable accessory for it? Samsung has recently launched its newest wrist-mounted devices, the Gear S2, compatible with most Android devices and available in two versions: the Gear S2 Classic (\$429.99) for the fashion-forward guy, or the more minimalist Gear S2 (\$399.99) for the sport fanatic on the move. Both offer a circular design, rotating bezel to cycle through apps and an intuitive, personalized interface. Users can stay connected with at-a-glance notifications to check calendar appointments, text, emails and news.

The puck drops here

Face off as or against your favourite team in NHL 16 (\$59.99), a fun and frantic hockey game for Xbox One and PlayStation 4. Compared to last year's version, this new disc or download of



about as you're within a range of 150 feet. Even if you're farther away, Tile logs its last known location on a map, so you might be able to see if you left your wallet at the office, for example. On the flipside, if you can't find your phone, double-tap your Tile to make your lost phone ring — even if it's on silent — or log into the Tile app or website on another device. Prices are \$29.99 for one Tile, \$70 for a four pack, \$130 for an eight pack or \$180 for a 12 pack.

- 1 Logitech Harmony Elite, \$399.99
- 2 GoPro HERO4 Silver, from \$499.99
- 3 House of Marley

- 4 NHL 16, \$59.99
- 5 Samsung Gear S2 Classic, \$499.99

fers more accessible and responsive skating and shooting controls, a new progression system, sharper visuals and better commentary to get you pumped up

while you play. NHL 16 offers multiple game types to choose from, whether you want to play by yourself, against a friend or family member beside you, or online against others.

Squaring off

If you want to drop a hint about your man's absentmindedness, give the gift of Tile (from \$29.99 for one), a small, white and Bluetooth-enabled tracker that helps find lost items via the

Tile app for iOS and Android devices. Simply attach, stick or place Tiles on everyday items like house keys, your wallet or a purse, and if you can't find them, open up the app, tap the name of the item (like "John's Keys") and it'll ring loudly — as

long as you're within a range of 150 feet. Even if you're farther away, Tile logs its last known location on a map, so you might be able to see if you left your wallet at the office, for example. On the flipside, if you can't find your phone, double-tap your Tile to make your lost phone ring — even if it's on silent — or log into the Tile app or website on another device. Prices are \$29.99 for one Tile, \$70 for a four pack, \$130 for an eight pack or \$180 for a 12 pack.

Prices are subject to change at retailers' discretion.

TECH IT OUT: GIFTS FOR HER

Recommended buys for that special someone

Resist the predictable.

Instead of buying a spa certificate or mall gift card, why not wow your partner with a hot high-tech toy?

Granted, an activity tracker or touchscreen tablet might cost a little more, but there are some great deals to be had this season. And hey, isn't your significant other worth it?

Ranging in price from \$34.99 to \$599.99, the following are a few recommendations to suit varying tastes and budgets.

Stream dream

If you're not interested in buying a new TV — but want to turn your existing one into a smarter one — the Roku 3 (\$109.99) offers more than



1,700 channels — including all the biggies like Netflix, YouTube, Cineplex Store, Google Play Movies & TV and NHL.

Wet 'n' wild

If you're shopping for a book lover, the Kobo Aura H2O (\$179.99) is the world's first waterproof ebook reader. Slip into the tub — or bring this Kobo to the pool or beach while on vacation — and it can remain underwater as deep as three feet for up to 30 minutes. The anti-glare e-ink screen can be read clearly in bright sunlight as well, or take advantage of the integrated light to read while curled up in bed.

Cable guy girl

Who says charging and syncing your mobile phone or tablet has to be ugly? Belkin's fashion-forward charging cables decorate a purse, bag or keychain, but they're really USB cables to

connect an iPhone, iPad or iPod touch to a computer for charging up and syncing to iTunes. Available for \$24.99 apiece.

No sweat

While Fitbit activity trackers start at just \$69.99 for the Fitbit Zip, the Fitbit Charge HR (\$149.99) helps you stay informed and motivated while being active. This wearable lets you set a daily goal — such as a certain number of steps taken, distance travelled or calories burned — and the lightweight and water-resistant wristband keeps track of your daily progress.

A touch of class

If budget permits, the Samsung Galaxy Tab S2 (from \$449.99 for the 8-inch version) is a slick touchscreen tablet with a super vibrant display — ideal for watching videos, playing games and viewing photos.

Have a seat

You enjoy taking a load off, so why shouldn't your smartphone? A quirky gift for a music lover is the aptly named Phoniture (\$99), a colourful charging station and Bluetooth-speaker set designed to look like an armchair with matching ottoman. Drop your smartphone into the seat and plug your charging cable into the USB port on the back; the chair is then plugged into an AC outlet to juice up your phone.

MARC SALTZMAN

like an armchair with matching ottoman. Drop your smartphone into the seat and plug your charging cable into the USB port on the back; the chair is then plugged into an AC outlet to juice up your phone.

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+ tax

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CHARITY GIFT GIVING

IWK donors help support patients

Kyden Stevens among those who benefit

On Dec. 26, Kyden Stevens of L'Ardoise, Nova Scotia will be celebrating his second birthday. This is a milestone his parents, Brad and Chereese, were not sure he would reach. But thanks to the life-saving care he's received at the IWK, this holiday season is looking bright for the Stevens family.

Several weeks after Kyden was born, he stopped gaining weight. When he was four months old, his pediatrician detected a heart murmur and he was referred to the Children's Heart Centre at the IWK. After undergoing tests, his cardiologist discovered two holes in his heart and an abnormal heart valve. This was causing the blood that was being pumped through his heart to leak into his lung. Kyden received open heart surgery at the IWK just one week later.

In January 2015, Kyden was sick for several days and his condition continued to deteriorate. He was immediately airlifted to the IWK and upon arrival the team explained to his parents that he was in heart failure. He needed immediate surgery and

his odds of survival were only 20 per cent.

"I broke down, but somehow Chereese stayed strong. She held Kyden in her arms and told him to go in there and fight," Brad says. "Then we watched our baby boy disappear through the operating suite doors."

Seven-and-a-half hours later, Kyden's surgeon shared the amazing news that the surgery was a success. Kyden recovered in the IWK's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and although he had ups and downs, he continued to fight and improve.

"Today, Kyden is doing much better and will continue to have regular check-ups at the IWK. I just can't wait to watch him grow up and see all the good he's going to do," says Brad. "But for now, I'm looking forward to the holidays. We have a lot to celebrate this year."

Donations to the IWK Foundation this holiday season will help fund the IWK's most urgent priority needs to support excellence in care for patients like Kyden. You can make a gift to the IWK by calling 1-800-595-2266 or iwkfoundation.org.



CONTRIBUTED



HELP MAKE THE SEASON BRIGHT

IWK Foundation

Excellence is in your hands. Donate today.

MARITIME PATIENTS & FAMILIES DESERVE THE BEST CARE.

When Kyden was one year old he was airlifted to the IWK for emergency heart surgery. With a 20% chance of survival, his parents were not sure if they would see their son again.

The IWK and its specialized care team helped save their little boy's life and today, Kyden is thriving.

Help make the season brighter for Maritime patients, like Kyden.

I'm looking forward to the holidays. We have a lot to celebrate this year thanks to the IWK and its generous donors."

Brad Stevens,
Kyden's Dad

1.800.595.2266 | iwkfoundation.org

Easter Seals offers a wide variety of services

Easter Seals Nova Scotia advocates for a barrier-free Nova Scotia and promotes mobility, inclusion, and independence for children, youth, and adults with disabilities. For more than 80 years, its services and programs have enabled Nova Scotians to attend barrier-free camps, play inclusive sports, access affordable wheelchairs and mobility equipment, and acquire employment skills.

Easter Seals Nova Scotia helps 2,500 Nova Scotians annually. It fundraises to provide its programs and services, and there are many ways to help this charity. You can text your support, make an online donation, consider a major gift, or participate in or sponsor one of its fundraising events.

You can donate online at www.easterseals.ns.ca, send a \$5, \$10, \$20, or \$25 donation by texting the word EASTER to 45678, or mail a cheque to: Easter Seals Nova Scotia, 3670 Kempt Rd., Halifax, NS, B3K 4X8.

When you make your donation in honour or in memory of a special person, Easter Seals Nova Scotia will send a card to the individual or their family on your behalf.



CONTRIBUTED

Businesses in the Halifax area can also support Easter Seals Nova Scotia by ordering food catering through its social enterprise. When Easter Seals Nova Scotia caters your lunch or your conference, you support its inclusive job skills program!

For more information about Easter Seals Nova Scotia, its catering, or any of its programs and services, please visit www.easterseals.ns.ca. You can also follow them @eastersealsns on Twitter, or like its page on Facebook.

Consider payroll deductions

If your New Year's resolution is to create a more charitable, community-minded consciousness in your workplace, but you don't want to add to your organization's overall costs this season, consider United Way Halifax's Workplace Campaign.

Payroll deductions allow your organization to give all year-round and have a real impact on where you live. Your contributions will support programs offered by a range of community-based organizations focused on critical social issues such as poverty, affordable housing, homelessness, and access to affordable food.

According to Statistics Canada, one-in-eight Halifax residents live in poverty (2012), and, according to Halifax Food Policy Alliance, one-in-five households in Halifax are food insecure, meaning they're not getting the food they require to live healthy lives.

Since 1925, United Way Halifax has been committed to alleviating such poverty and



CONTRIBUTED

improving community health as a funder, researcher, partner, convener and advocate. After government, United Way is the largest funder of social programs in the Halifax community, and donations are United Way Halifax's sole source of support.

To raise awareness of the need for giving through United Way Halifax, encourage your staff to visit makethemonth.ca. To start a United Way Halifax campaign at your workplace, whether through payroll deductions or sponsorship opportunities, visit Unitedwayhalifax.ca, or call 902.422.1501.

Individuals can also make donations to United Way Halifax this season in honour or in memory of a loved one via: Unitedwayhalifax.ca or by mailing a cheque to: 46 Portland St., 7th Floor, Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 1H4.



**My donation
#MakesHFXGreater!**



DONATE TODAY

Easter Seals Nova Scotia

Serving Nova Scotians with disabilities for more than 80 years.



Support our ability to promote mobility, inclusion and independence for Nova Scotians with disabilities. Your donation will enable us to deliver programs such as our barrier-free summer camp, equipment provision, skills training services and inclusive sports.

Please visit our website or call to learn how you can help.

easterseals.ns.ca • 902.453.6000 ext. 224



Through ChangeIt, you can round up your bank card purchases or donate cash reward AirMiles!



UNICEF helping lift kids out of poverty

Your charitable donation goes a long way

When kids catch the news, they have a hard time figuring out what they can do to help people who are suffering a world away.

Buying charitable gifts makes a difference and helps kids feel better, says Sharon Avery, Chief Development Officer with UNICEF Canada.

"What helps kids deal with that is knowing they can do something about it," she says.

Investing in programs that combat poverty, while educating children and getting them healthy, is part of the solution to many of the world's problems, Avery says.

"To look ahead at the future of the world, one of the ways to make it a safer place is to combat poverty and provide education to kids — that's really what's going to create stronger countries and communities and economies and really battle the things we're seeing in the news right now."

Michael Ungar, Halifax author, university professor and family therapist, says kids are

UNICEF FACTS

- UNICEF is biggest procurer of pencils and vaccines in the world.
- The Survival Gifts program started in 2004, and has grown every year.
- Popular items in the past for Canadians have been water-related products. Last year, the biggest seller was Plumpy'Nut packets which help malnourished children gain weight quickly (153,000 packages sold last year), and bed nets are always popular.

actually hard-wired to want to give and help other people.

"We tend to think of them as a selfish generation but that's not true at all," he says.

Giving is all part of their development, he says. Kids want to be more adult-like and increase their responsibility and sense of self.



ISTOCK

writes a thank-you card himself.

"If the purpose is to raise kids who think of themselves as part of families and communities and want to contribute, to build that capacity so they're nice people, nice citizens, then give them those opportunities."

— Jennifer Taplin

Gift of Light supports care, honours your loved ones

The Cobequid Health Centre Foundation's Gift of Light Program gives you the opportunity to support local health care this season and honour a loved one at the same time.

When you purchase a bulb for the Centre's tree, the name of your loved one will be written on it with a special note (either in memory or in honour) and will remain lit on the tree in the main lobby from Dec. 8 until Jan. 6. A hand-written note will then be sent

to your loved one or their family notifying them of your donation.

Presented by Arbor Memorial and RBC Bedford and Lower Sackville, this year's Program will fund enhancements to the Cobequid Centre's emergency department, which is the third busiest emergency center in the province. Originally built to serve 20,000 patients annually, the Centre saw 39,000 last fiscal year.

The Foundation's Executive Director, Stacey Chapman, says that staff and volunteers particularly enjoy spending time with those who come in person to donate.

"A lot of people come in and talk to us about their loved one; they'll tell us a story about their loved one and want to tell you why they're making the donation," Chapman says.

Last year's Program raised more than \$5,715, which funded a new digital self-registration kiosk for the Centre that reduces wait times for routine and ongoing care.

To honour a loved one through the Gift of Light Program, visit in-person at 40 Freer Lane, Lower Sackville, online at cobequidfoundation.ca, or by phone at 902-869-6128.



CONTRIBUTED

Remember your loved ones
WITH A GIFT OF LIGHT DONATION

Purchase a bulb for our holiday tree in honor, or in memory, of a loved one and support vital health care services in our community.

Funds raised go to enhancements of the Cobequid Community Health Centre's Emergency Department.

To donate call 902-869-6128 | cobequidfoundation.ca



Help turn \$3.11 into a delicious feast

A very small gift can go a long way toward helping the homeless and hungry in Halifax, and Souls Harbour Rescue Mission can turn a \$3.11 donation into a holiday meal for someone in need.

At their drop-in centre located at 5568 Cunard St., Souls Harbour provides a hot, nutritious meal every weekday, all year-round — but they're serving up something special this holiday as a gift of hope and dignity to guests.

On Christmas Day, Souls Harbour will be transformed into a second living room of Christmas cheer where all in need are welcomed with caroling, presents, seafood chowder, and an unlimited cookie buffet.

"Part of the drop-in is also making sure that people have what they need to stay warm for the holidays, so we also give away toques, mitts, scarves, and of course boots and jackets," says executive director Michelle Porter. "These are things that are always welcome here, because not everyone can

give money."

While the Christmas Day celebration is expected to bring in about 150 people, Souls Harbour's main holiday meal will take place on New Year's Eve Day when they're expecting to welcome approximately 350 for a three-course meal.

This will be their first meal cooked in the new kitchen donated by Aviva based on votes from more than 8,000 supporters. In a thank you to all who voted, Souls Harbour notes on Facebook: "You have given us a Christmas gift that will change lives."

Souls Harbour was opened in 2011 by Rev. Ken and Michelle Porter, who have 25 years of experience in the field of addictions recovery. They have assisted more than 100 men, women and families off of Canada's streets and into a new life.

You can help those facing hunger, homelessness, poverty, abuse and addiction this season in a variety of simple ways. You can drop off warm winter clothes, an extra batch



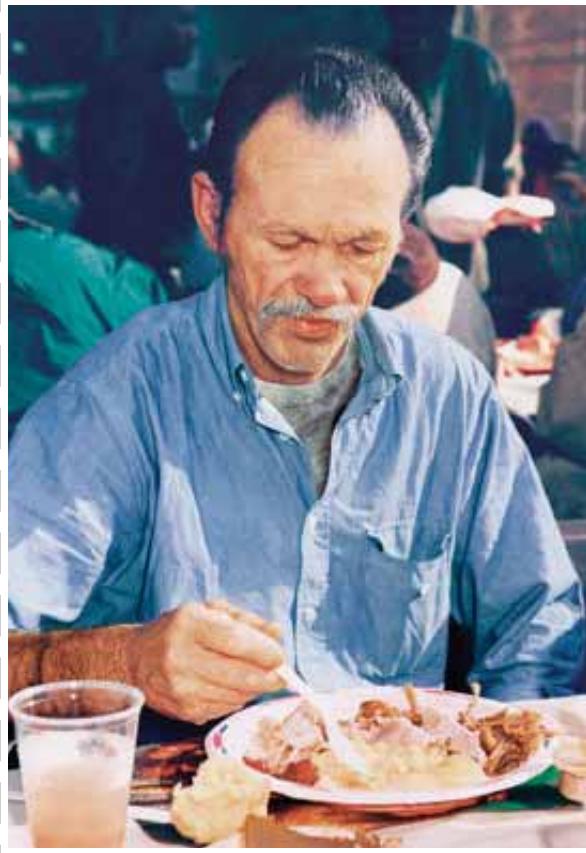
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of cookies, or a small stocking filled with toiletries and basics to: 5568 Cunard St. (open Monday to Friday, 9-5, until renovations are completed), or make a monetary donation

online at shrm.ca, or by mail to: PO box 9255, Halifax, NS, B3K 5M8.

To learn about volunteer opportunities and more, visit Facebook.com/shrm.ca.

COMPLETE CHRISTMAS DINNER - \$3.11



You can provide a Hot Meal for a Homeless Man at Christmas, and Change His Life Forever!

- \$18.66 helps 6 people
- \$59.09 helps 19 people
- \$37.32 helps 12 people
- \$80.86 helps 26 people
- \$155.50 provides 50 meals or other essential services
- \$_____ to help as many people as possible



Charge by phone at **902-405-HOME (4663)** or give online at shrm.ca

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Prov/PC _____

Email: _____

Please make your cheque payable to: Souls Harbour RESCUE Mission
P.O. Box 9255 RPO CSC, Halifax, NS B3K 5M8
Street Location: 5568 Cunard Street

Costs are average and include the expense of preparing and providing meals. All donations will be used for board-approved programs and projects. When any need or project goal has been met or cannot be completed, extra funds will be used in areas of greatest need.



metro SPORTS

The Habs placed winger Alexander Semin on unconditional waivers Wednesday for the purposes of mutually terminating his contract

Great team passes torch

WORLD JUNIORS

Canada's 2016 club has some mighty big skates to fill

When Connor McDavid returned to Air Canada Centre for the first time since winning world junior gold with Canada, he didn't let the disappointment of being injured stop him from soaking in the memories and spreading some joy.

McDavid sent former teammates a Snapchat picture of a world junior poster from one of Canada's most dominating performances in the nation's history. That undefeated Canadian team could go down as one of the best, but players are just starting to make their mark.

Ten players from that stacked group have already made their NHL debuts with a handful of others on the cusp of doing the same. McDavid is the headliner, but forwards Curtis Lazar, Anthony Duclair, Max Domi, Robby Fabbri, Jake Virtanen, Nick Ritchie and Nic Petan and defenceman Darnell Nurse are tangible evidence that the 2015 Canadian world junior team was as NHL-ready as any under-20-year-old group could be.

"The way we played that tournament, I think it was pretty apparent that there was a lot of really good hockey players on that team," Nurse said. "To say that this many guys were going to be playing in the league this fast, I don't know if everyone expected (that). But playing alongside those guys, how professional they are,



Connor McDavid congratulates goalie Zach Fucale after defeating Slovakia in the 2015 semi-final. CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

how much hard work went in, it's pretty clear why they're in the league."

Lazar, Canada's captain, was established with the Ottawa Senators before the tournament, and Duclair was a surprise member of the New York Rangers as a 19-year-old. Canada also had the No. 2 draft pick from 2014 in Reinhart and projected No. 1 pick in McDavid, so it was obvious the team would be deep.

It was a very special team. It's good to see a bunch of them doing well in the NHL.

Connor McDavid

"We just looked at the lineup and we said, 'Wow,' and we said we can do something special, for sure," said Duclair, who's now a teammate of Domi on the Arizona Coyotes. "Not every year you get a group like that, that can play in the NHL

that year."

Even Hockey Canada officials didn't see this coming. They knew with an older group there was a good chance of winning on home ice and ending a five-year gold-medal drought but couldn't predict so many

players going right to the NHL nine months later.

"You like to think that part of their development is through the national junior team experience," Hockey Canada vice-president of hockey operations Scott Salmon said. "But you never know. For us, we need them to be ready for three weeks and they're exceptional for us and then where it goes from there no one knows." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Brayden Point

Point came from the back of the pack at camp a year ago to make Canada's roster and also impressed at Tampa Bay Lightning

2015 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

camp before going back to dominating for the WHL's Moose Jaw Warriors. He'll be a big piece in 2016.

Zach Fucale

Called up by the Montreal Canadiens to serve as Mike Condon's backup for three games, Canada's gold-medal-game starter has a .907 save percentage and 3.12 goals-against average for the American Hockey

League's St. John's IceCaps in his first season as a pro.

Frederik Gauthier

The Toronto Maple Leafs' 2013 first-round pick was a shutdown centre for Canada. He is now a role player with the AHL's Marlies and has 10 points in 22 games.

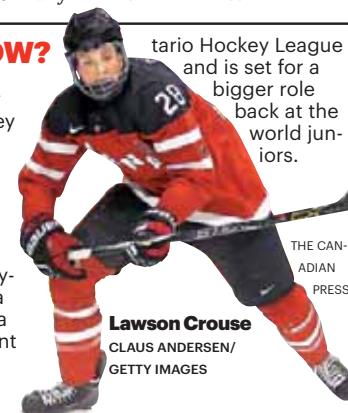
Joe Hicketts

A long shot to make the team in 2015, Hicketts is

a point-a-game player for the Western Hockey League's Victoria Royals and is expected to return for Canada in 2016.

Lawson Crouse

A bottom-six, role-playing winger for Canada a year ago, Crouse is a point-a-game dominant force for the Kingston Frontenacs of the Ontario Hockey League and is set for a bigger role back at the world juniors.



Lawson Crouse
CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Sinclair's double pushes Canada past Mexico

Christine Sinclair scored two goals and Nichelle Prince added a single as the Canadian women's soccer team defeated Mexico 3-0 on Wednesday in Brazil, at the International Tournament of Natal.

All three goals came in the first half of the opening friendly at the Arena das Dunas.

Sinclair opened the scoring in the 15th minute and added another goal six minutes later.

Prince made it a three-goal game when she scored in the 44th minute.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skier sues in relation to concussions

Former Olympic aerials skier Veronika Bauer is suing the Canadian Freestyle Ski Association for negligence in relation to a series of concussions she suffered while active in the sport.

Bauer filed a civil claim with the Supreme Court of British Columbia last Thursday, naming the CFSA and Dr. Jeffrey Purkis as defendants.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Utley back with Dodgers

Second baseman Chase Utley and the Los Angeles Dodgers have finalized a one-year contract.

The 36-year-old was obtained from Philadelphia on Aug. 19 and hit .202 with three homers and nine RBIs in 34 games with the Dodgers. He created a controversy in the NL Division Series with a hard slide at second base that broke a leg of New York Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mariners trade for Lind

The busy Seattle Mariners have acquired first baseman Adam Lind from the Milwaukee Brewers for three teenage minor league pitchers.

The Brewers are getting right-handers Daniel Missaki, Carlos Herrera and Freddy Peralta in the trade announced Wednesday at the winter meetings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Undefeated fighter to be tested again

UFC

Canadian Elias Theodorou to face off with Thiago Santos

Elias (The Spartan) Theodorou has passed every MMA test thrown at him so far.

The Toronto middleweight has won all 11 of his fights, including both UFC bouts since emerging victorious in The Ultimate Fighter Nations reality TV show. Charismatic and colourful, the 27-year-old is the kind of fighter the UFC hopes can help carry the flag north of the border.

Theodorou's credentials will be put under the microscope again Thursday when he faces Thiago Santos (11-3-0) on a Fight Night card.

The show is the first of three in as many nights in Las Vegas, culminating Saturday in UFC 194 when featherweight title-holder Jose Aldo meets interim champion Conor McGregor.

Thursday's main event features Rose (Thug) Namajunas (4-2-0), ranked third among female strawweights, against No. 7 Paige (12-Gauge) VanZant (6-10).

Santos, a former Brazilian army paratrooper, needed just 29 seconds in June to knock former Quebec minor-league hockey enforcer Steve Bosse senseless with a kick to the head. In January, Santos stopped Andy Enz in one minute 56 seconds, hurting him with a body kick before unleashing a barrage of punches.

Theodorou calls Santos the best striker "by far" he has faced — "and someone who can pull the trigger."



Toronto middleweight Elias Theodorou has won all 11 of his fights, including both UFC bouts since emerging victorious in The Ultimate Fighter Nations show. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

I want to put every single ounce of me when I'm fighting towards that goal of winning. I don't want to be sidetracked.

Elias (The Spartan) Theodorou

"A very tough opponent, who wants to take my block off," he said. But he believes the Brazilian is more vulnerable the deeper he goes into a fight. Santos' lone loss in the UFC since appearing in The Ultimate Fighter Brazil was a unanimous decision to highly touted Uriah Hall.

"I'm going to take him further and further into those deep waters and put on a pace he can't handle," said Theodorou, who has the grinding style and cardio to back that up.

Theodorou prepared for Santos by training in Long Island, N.Y., with middleweight champion

Chris Weidman, who defends his title in Saturday's UFC 194 co-main event against Luke Rockhold.

The Canadian fighter had nothing but praise for Weidman and his training team, which includes noted striking coach Ray Longo and former UFC welterweight champion Matt Serra.

"He's the best in the world," Theodorou said of Weidman (13-0). "Most other places would want to shelter him, kind of keep him away from anyone. Whereas they're just wide-open."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCCER

Arsenal advances after Giroud hat trick



Olivier Giroud
MICHAEL REGAN/GETTY IMAGES

Olivier Giroud scored a hat trick as Arsenal advanced to the last 16 of the Champions League with a 3-0 win over Olympiakos on Wednesday, overturning an advantage held by the Greeks.

The France striker opened the scoring in the 29th minute, heading home off a cross from Aaron Ramsey, with the ball bouncing under goalkeeper Roberto Gonzalez.

He struck again four minutes after halftime, running through defenders to slot in a pass from former Olympiakos player Joel

Campbell.

Olympiakos, which beat Arsenal 3-2 in London, nearly pulled a goal back through Kostas Fortounis, while Ideye Brown missed a point blank chance.

But the game followed Arsenal's script and the deafening crowd at Karaiskakis Stadium was silenced when Omar Elabdellaoui slipped and handled the ball.

Giroud again beat Gonzalez from the resulting penalty to seal the match and second place behind Bayern Munich in Group F. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOVING ON

Seeded teams: Real Madrid, Wolfsburg, Atletico Madrid, Manchester City, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Chelsea, Zenit St. Petersburg

Unseeded teams: Paris Saint-Germain, PSV Eindhoven, Benfica, Juventus, Roma, Arsenal, Dynamo Kyiv, Gent.

metro OBITUARIES

GOODIN, Leta Marie (nee Perry)



age 82 of Dartmouth passed away on Tuesday December 8, 2015 with family at her side, at Bissett Court Nursing Home. Born in Cape Negro, Shelburne County she was a daughter of the late Oscar Leighton and Violet (Caiger) Perry. Leta is survived by her children, Catherine "Cathy" Schlegel (Hardy), Susan Parker (Michael) and Kevin (Cathy) all of Dartmouth; grandchildren, Jason Schlegel, Chad Schlegel (Jessica), Ryan Parker (Carrie), Adam Parker and Julie Grant and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband Lawrence; son Lawrence "Larry"; brothers, Leighton "Burdett" Perry and Frederick John Perry; sister, Betty Agnes Conrod; brother in law, Gerald Roy Conrod. Leta was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who enjoyed spending time with her family and was a dedicated member of her church. She enjoyed sewing, knitting, gardening, cake decorating, and was a champion Yahtzee player. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held 1pm Saturday, December 12, followed by a reception both in Atlantic Funeral Home, 771 Main Street, Dartmouth. Interment in Dartmouth Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Special thank you to the staff of Bissett Court for the compassion and care they provided for our Mother. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.atlanticfuneralhomes.com (Dartmouth Chapel).

Atlantic Funeral Home
Dartmouth Chapel
by Arbor Memorial

ELLIS, Robert "Burke"

Age 82 of Halifax passed away Monday December 7, 2015 in the Halifax Infirmary QE II. Born in Halifax he was a son of the late Kathleen (Ellis) Cosgrove. Burke is survived by his wife of 56 years Lorraine (Wournell); daughters, Kathleen Ellis, Australia, Belinda "Lynn" Ellis, Halifax; son, Robert (Tammy), Halifax; grandchildren, Crystal, Tanya, Michael, and Martin; great grandchildren, Mikka and Thorsten. He is predeceased by sons, Richard and Kenneth. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held 10am Saturday, December 12 in Atlantic Funeral Homes, 6552 Bayers Road, Halifax. Interment in St. John's Cemetery, 6 Bedford Highway. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Diabetes Association of Canada. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.atlanticfuneralhomes.com (Halifax Chapel)

Atlantic Funeral Home
Halifax Chapel
by Arbor Memorial

Arbor
Memorial
Atlantic Funeral Home
Dartmouth - Halifax - Sackville

metro OBITUARIES

Ask your Funeral Home for details.

RECIPE Baked Fried Chicken



PHOTO: MARY ANN BUCHANAN

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

All the crunch of fried chicken but with much less fat in the final dish, this baked recipe is sure to become part of your regular roster!

Ready in
Prep time: 60 minutes

Serves 4 to 6

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup buttermilk (or add a tsp of vinegar to regular milk and let it sit for 15 minutes)
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 8 or 9 chicken pieces (thighs and drumsticks)
- 1 1/2 cups whole wheat bread crumbs
- 2 Tbsp fresh thyme
- 1 1/2 tsp lemon zest
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Combine the buttermilk and garlic together in a shallow pan container. Coat the chicken pieces thoroughly and cover with plastic wrap. Place in the fridge to marinate for a half an hour or up to over night. Turn the chicken pieces over at least once while marinating.
2. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
3. Mix bread crumbs in a bowl together with the thyme, zest and salt and pepper.
4. Dredge chicken pieces in the bread crumb mixture and place them on a baking sheet. Press bread crumbs onto the meat if some falls off.
5. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes until the outside of the chicken is deeply golden and the meat is cooked through.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT
SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

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- 56. Mr. Diggs
- 57. Tree varieties
- 58. Lavigne hit
- 59. "Wuthering Heights" (1939) star
- 60. "I'm ___ You": Avril
- 61. "A" in AD
- 62. "Stand"
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- 64. "Tender"
- 65. "Talented"
- 66. "Charlie Chaplin's persona
- 67. "Woodcutter"
- 68. "Noranda, Quebec"
- 69. "Laze"
- 70. "Office helper, commonly"
- 71. "The Middle"
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- 73. "James" (Canadian body of water)
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71. "The Middle"

72. "Ocean, e.g."

73. "James" (Canadian body of water)

74. "Squeezed the

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20

Put all doubts and fears out of your mind and do what you think is best. You have a clear picture of what needs to be done and the courage to make it happen. Don't hesitate.

Taurus April 21 - May 21

As communications planet Mercury moves in your favour today you won't be in the least bit shy or tongue-tied. Let others know what it is you need and they will give it.

Gemini May 22 - June 21

If you need to make a new start now is the time to speak up and let others know what it is you intend to do — and that your intentions are serious. But don't get so serious that you forget how to have fun.

Cancer June 22 - July 23

You know that you have what it takes to succeed but others may need some convincing. You'll find it easier to persuade colleagues and employers, just remember that actions count more than words.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23

Go your own way and do your own thing. And don't worry about others — the best way to win them over is to act like their approval means nothing to you.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Someone will deliver unexpected news today but you should have seen it coming. No matter how much it might upset you just accept it and move on. What else can you do?

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

There is someone you should be seeing more of and this is the ideal time to ring them up and arrange to get together again. Don't drift apart so easily in future.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You have overlooked a small but important detail and the effects of that oversight will become apparent. Do not blame others for your failure. Be big enough to own your mistakes.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

For too long you've kept your aims and ambitions to yourself — let everyone know what you want and what you're doing to get it. Most people will be supportive. The few who are not you can safely ignore.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

The doubts and fears of the past few weeks will fade away today as Mercury moves into your sign. The things you have been most anxious about will turn out to be the things you had least to fear.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Put principle before profit and don't worry if you seem to be the only one who cares. Others do care but few get as emotionally involved as you.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20

Difficult choices concerning your career will have to be made but don't do anything before you have consulted people you trust. It could be they can suggest less painful ways of making the changes you need.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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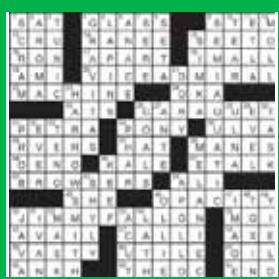
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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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